

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Oberland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Hongkong	359
Leading Articles	
Plague Returns	361
The Currency of India and China	361
The Navy League	362
"Empire Day"	362
The Gage Street Murder	362
China Tea Trade	362
Special Supplement	
Chamber of Commerce Annual Report.	
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	363
Siberian Railway Projects	364
The Straits Currency	364
Supreme Court	366
Famine in Kwang	372
Hongkong Sanitary Board	373
The Situation at Newchwang	371
On the List	374
B. P. Moffitt in the Colony	375
A Day at the Magistracy	375
Police Inspector Develops Plague	375
Canton Notes	376
A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.	376
The China Light and Power Co., Ltd.	377
Correspondence	77
Births and Deaths in the Colony	79
Shanghai and the Navy League	79
Golf Championship	379
Miscellaneous	379
Commercial	380
Shipping	381

BIRTHS.

On the 10th May, at Kobe, the wife of C. W. DAVIDGE, of a daughter.
On the 11th May, at 8, North Szechuen Road, Shanghai, the wife of FRANK DRAK, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 9th May, at Singapore, WALTER MART, Ordnance Department, Singapore, to B. C. WEBBE, second daughter of J. F. WEBBE, Singapore.

DEATH.

On the 10th May, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, ERN-EST ALFRED, younger son of Captain H. A. McINNES, I.M. Customs, aged 22 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 4th April arrived, per N.D.L. steamer *Stuttgart*, on the 19th May (35 days); the American mail of the 22nd April arrived, per T.K.K. steamer *Hongkong Maru*, on the 20th May (24 days); and the English mail of the 24th April arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on the 22nd May (28 days).

HONGKONG.

The number of plague cases in the Colony from January 1st to date is returned at 765.

The Registrar-General during 1902 licensed 44 Chinese postal hongs employing 162 letter-carriers. A licensing fee of \$5 is charged in each case.

During the year 1902, 36 books were registered here, as compared with 44 in 1901.

Mr. Bruce Shephard has been temporarily appointed a Member of the Land Court, vice Mr. H. L. Debnys.

The number of marriages solemnised in the Colony during 1902 was 129 as compared with 141 in 1901, says the Acting Registrar-General's report.

Certificates of identity to Chinese entering the United States, etc., contributed \$2,275 to the revenue of the Colony during the year 1902, against \$1,750 in 1901.

The total number of vaccinations in the Colony throughout 1902 was 6,475, as against 5,937 in 1901. There were 9 prosecutions under the Vaccination Ordinance during the year.

The number of street hawkers is gradually increasing. During the year 1902, 13,864 licences were issued, and from 1st October until 31st December 7,773 different hawkers paid fees.

Mr. Haumer has been appointed Assistant Secretary of the Sanitary Board. Mr. Haumer was admitted as a solicitor in 1893, and practised for himself for about two years in Southampton.

A Chinese fireman was killed at Quarry Bay shipyard on the 17th inst. by falling from a travelling crane and being crushed between the "cow-catcher" and the rails. The unfortunate man was terribly mutilated.

During the year 1902, Chinese male and female emigrants under 16 years of age to the number of 1,312, as against 932 in 1901, were examined at the Harbour Office and the Registrar-General's Office.

Found guilty of being in unlawful possession of an iron clamp valued at \$10 and the property of the Peak Tramway Company, a Chinaman at the Police Court on Saturday was sentenced to one month's hard labour.

Complaints are frequent that the gas lamps are unlit or turned down early, and the streets left in darkness. The Gas Company may be trying to make up for its losses on dear coal; but it was never known to give the streets extra lighting when coal was cheap.

Uniforms for the use of Chinese deck hands on the Star Ferry launches are being introduced, and were worn yesterday for the first time. The innovation is a good one, and the men have now a smart, business-like appearance that was formerly lacking.

The caps on the manholes of the No. 2 tank in Causeway Road are still in a reversed position, or were on the 19th inst., and proving highly efficacious as receptacles for stagnant water. Perhaps, when the showers have passed the responsible authorities will venture out and see them fixed properly.

Private advices from Canton state that the American company which has undertaken the work of laying an electric tramway round the city of Canton has been approached by the gentry of Nanchow with a view to the installation of a telephone service. As a result, a syndicate with a capital of \$2,000 has been formed and the introduction of the telephone is expected to take place within a few months.

Messrs. W. S. Bailey & Co. recently launched from their yard a new leak water-boat 105 feet long, constructed to the order of the Hongkong Steam Water-boat Co., Ltd., this being a repeat order to Messrs. Bailey from the Company. The vessel is fitted with non-condensing engines giving a speed of 7½ knots and the boiler and powerful duplex pump are fitted on deck. The storage capacity is two hundred tons. On completion of the official trial, which was run on Friday, the boat was immediately put into service.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Hormusjee Nusserwanjee Cooper \$500
Dorabjee Nowrojee 500

The following conditions are attached to these donations:—

- (1) The funds shall be named the Hormusjee Nusserwanjee Cooper and Dorabjee Nowrojee Funds respectively and kept intact.
- (2) The funds shall be placed on fixed deposit in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the annual interest therefrom shall be applied to the funds of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals in the names of the donors.

The report of the Acting Registrar-General, Mr. C. McL. Messer, for the year 1902, shows that the revenue collected during the period under review amounted to \$136,888.13, as against \$127,566.16 in 1901—an increase of \$9,321.97. The report states that, very nearly all items of revenue show substantial increases. Thus, the revenue from markets has increased by \$2,656.48; from hawkers, by \$1,476.50; from boat licences, by \$399.90; and from fees in connection with the Marriage Ordinances, by \$776. The expenditure during the year was \$24,230.33 compared with \$16,429.62 in 1901. The increase was caused by the permanent appointment of Mr. C. Clementi as Assistant Registrar, the appointment of a translator, the cost of training student interpreters, and the appointment of an emigration clerk.

The complimentary concert given in the Theatre Royal on Saturday night for the benefit of Miss Florence Adelaide proved to be a great success, the entertainment being a first-rate one and the audience so large that downstairs not a seat could be found for those arriving after the curtain had gone up; the dress circle was also well filled. Carefully arranged, the programme was enhanced by the absence of any wearisome intervals between the numbers, and the fact was made the subject of much favourable comment. The various turns were all creditably taken, and encores were frequent, the audience being liberal with its applause. Especially good were the Highland fling by Mr. W. Cleveland (assisted by Piper J. E. Sinclair), a song and dance by the beneficiary, Miss F. Adelaide; and Mr. F. Harvie, who introduced a "cake-walk," the juggling performance by "Cento," and the musical sketch by the Francis Brothers. Mr. Burnett and Mr. Burgess, eccentric comedians, made great impressions, and cordial too were the receptions given to Mr. F. G. Whittick, Mr. W. J. Dockree, Mrs. R. Stephenson, Mr. W. Rogers, Mr. H. Palmer, Mr. F. Williams, and Mr. J. R. Martin, the other contributors to the programme.

PLAGUE IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 18th May.)

We have received from the COLONIAL SECRETARY a copy of a "Report on the causes and continuance of Plague in Hongkong, and suggestions as to Remedial Measures, by W. J. SIMPSON, M.D., F.R.C.P." who was sent out to the Colony last year by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to investigate and report on the subject. The Report, including maps, diagrams and appendices, occupies 125 foolscap folio pages, and is divided into four parts. The first part deals with plague in China (a) before the outbreak in Canton in the spring of 1894, and (b) during and after the outbreak in Canton in 1894. Part II treats of plague in Hongkong; Part III records the results of the investigation into plague in animals; and Part IV suggests remedial measures.

It is an eminently readable report, but we can hardly say of it that it adds much to local knowledge either as to the causes of the constantly recurring epidemics or the measures necessary to keep the Colony as free of the pest as possible. But Dr. SIMPSON has collected together an immense amount of information on the subject which is of permanent value as a basis on which remedial measures must proceed. Besides visiting various places in China where plague prevailed, Dr. SIMPSON addressed a circular letter asking certain questions on the subject to the medical men and medical missionaries in China, and in his Report he gives a summary of the answers supplied by thirty-four medical practitioners in Kwangtung, Fukien and other neighbouring provinces. While these answers, so far as concerns the main causes of plague, illustrate the proverbial difference of opinion among the doctors, it is, as Dr. SIMPSON says, worthy of note that of 37 correspondents with experience of plague epidemics, thirty had found the plague outbreak preceded by a mortality among rats four were of opinion that the rat mortality was simultaneous with the plague outbreaks, two did not answer the question, and one stated it was unknown, though of opinion that rodents introduced the disease. "The consensus of opinion that the rat mortality is a precursor of plague in man is practically unanimous, not only among medical men in China experienced in plague, but among the Chinese people whose villages and towns have been attacked with plague." The antecedence of the rat plague, Dr. SIMPSON says, points to a channel of infection which is capable of giving the disease to the rat, but which at first has no influence on man, and that the dissemination of the infection by the rat is needed to bring it into those channels by which man can become infected. A large number of experiments were carried out under Dr. SIMPSON's advice on pigs, calves, hens, ducks, geese, rats and sheep, and Dr. SIMPSON says the results prove that man with plague can infect the domestic animals, and they in turn can infect one another. "More than this, the infective material of a plague rat can cause plague in monkeys and the infective material of a monkey with plague can give rats plague. What is here proved to be the case with experiments in monkeys, namely that rat plague is communicable to them by feeding, inoculation, contact and without contact with rat plague material, is likely also to apply to man." The fact that animals and birds experimented on took the infection by the mouth

and alimentary canal, causes Dr. SIMPSON to attach great importance to the food question. While he admits that he is unaware of any recorded instances of plague in man being caused by infected food, he thinks this may be due to enquiry in this direction not being pursued owing to the preponderating influence of assigning most of the cases to inoculation. More attention than has hitherto been considered necessary, he says, will require to be paid by the local authority in times of plague epidemics, to the examination and inspection of the food supply, and by private individuals to the cooking and storage of food. "It is highly probable that the dissemination of the disease by plague rats is due, in a measure at least, to their infecting food which has been lying about or to which they have gained access." These conclusions contrast sharply with those of the Indian Plague Commission which found no evidence "to show that plague ever effects an entrance through the channel of the stomach or intestinal canal." The experiments conducted in Hongkong show conclusively that animals die of the plague after eating infected food. In connection with these experiments and what they show, Dr. SIMPSON says it is instructive to note that in nearly every description of an endemic centre of plague the people live crowded together in dark and badly ventilated huts along with their cattle, pigs and poultry.

As to the remedial measures recommended by Dr. SIMPSON, they were, as he says, considered and generally accepted in principle by the Hongkong Government before he left the Colony, the suggested measures being mostly concerned with the administration and with the legal powers necessary to combat the plague and improve the sanitary condition of the Colony, such as notification of plague from China by weekly bulletins from Consuls, &c.; the inclusion of special plague organisation in the sanitary administration, a re-organisation of the sanitary department to include the medical inspection of shipping and junks and the appointment of a Sanitary Commissioner for the Colony; and finally the amendment and consolidation of the Public Health Ordinances. Dr. SIMPSON, however, affirms that "under the present condition of Hongkong and with Southern China infected extensively with plague, it is almost hopeless to expect Hongkong to remain long entirely free of plague, but it is not impossible, with a trained and special organisation to keep the disease in check and under control, so as to prevent it reaching those dimensions which alarm the population, prove disastrous to the Colony, and render Hongkong a source of anxiety to those who have trade relations with it."

(Daily Press, 18th May.)

The gratifying decline shown last year in the plague returns for the Colony naturally encouraged the hope that the efforts of the Sanitary Authorities to cope with and stamp out the epidemic were meeting with a success likely to prove permanent. It is exceedingly disappointing to find that this, unfortunately, is not the case, and that this year is likely to witness a return to the figures with which residents grew familiar in previous epidemics. By the end of June last year the number of cases notified in the Colony was only 387. We are now but in the middle of May, and we have for the present year a total up to noon on Saturday last of 656. Plague in Hongkong, as Dr. SIMPSON observes in his report, possesses distinct seasons for its prevalence. It is

lowest or even absent in the autumn and winter, and reaches its maximum in the summer months, especially in May and June. With a present total of 656 we have the worst six weeks of the plague season before us, so that it would appear that all the expenditure to which the Colony has been committed in the attempt to rid us of the pest has failed apparently to make any appreciable reduction in the mortality returns from plague, though, of course, it is impossible to say how much heavier those returns would appear but for the work accomplished. It is noteworthy that the first half of the year has usually to be debited with over ninety per cent. of the cases of plague occurring in this Colony. In 1896 there were no fewer than 1,116 in the first half of the year out of a total of 1,204 for the twelve months. In 1898 the figures were 1,312 out of 1,325; in 1899, 1,072 out of 1,462; in 1900, 764 out of 1,036; in 1901, 1,487 out of 1,651; in 1902, 387 out of 582. Plague wherever it occurs is a seasonal disease, but the experts are unable to discover the explanation of this. Dr. SIMPSON, however, says there is little doubt that its seasonal prevalence in Hongkong is favoured in the early part of the Spring by the pilgrimages made to ancestral tombs, his idea being that if plague is prevalent in the part visited there is risk of infection, which is brought back on their return to this Colony. The extra activity of the emigration business at this time of the year is also a favouring circumstance, as some of the coolies doubtless come to the Colony from infected districts. But Dr. SIMPSON adds that "the influence of these two factors is of secondary rather than of primary importance as matters now stand in Hongkong, for though, re-infection of the Colony from China plays a part in the annual recrudescence, more or less according to the extent of the plague prevalence and to the accessibility of the area affected in the Kwangtung Province, yet the main source of plague in Hongkong since 1898 is in the Colony itself, where it is endemic and where it would appear annually even if it were not materially assisted by reinfection from the mainland."

Dr. SIMPSON does not find any special connection between the plague and the rainfall. Whatever may be the cause of plague epidemics, there is abundant proof that infection adheres to old, dark, damp and rat-ridden houses. He strongly condemns the subdivision of a single room into a number of rooms called cubicles which he describes "as an ingenious device for crowding together a large number of people into a small space and securing a correspondingly large rental, but it is an arrangement which engenders disease and favours its spread." This afternoon a meeting of property owners is convened to consider the sections in the new Public Health and Building Ordinance relating to overcrowding and the requirements to be observed with regard to cubicles or rooms in existing buildings, and it is to be hoped that the outcome will be some arrangement to remedy the state of things to which Dr. SIMPSON alludes in this connection, as promptly and effectually as possible.

(Daily Press, 22nd May.)

We have felt it to be our duty on more than one occasion to draw attention to the dumping of bodies, dead of the plague, in the streets of the Colony, and we have suggested what is practically a certain means

of putting a stop to a practice, which, we regret to notice, is still as rampant as ever. A correspondent whose letter appears in another column over the signature of "Anti-Dumping" suggests that an improvement in the methods of the Sanitary Board would speedily check this dangerous and disgusting practice. If the facts are as stated by our correspondent the procedure of the Sanitary officials appears to be but little less dangerous to the public health than the actual dumping of dead bodies in the street, for our correspondent alleges that if a death occurring in a house—which in Hongkong generally means a tenement house—is pronounced "to be from plague the Sanitary Board officials take charge of the premises and the occupants of the whole house are turned out into the street with their furniture and all their clothing, winter and summer, which is emptied from the boxes and disinfected." Our correspondent says that there are several instances of people turned out from plague-infected houses living in the public street for several days. If what our correspondent says is true—and we believe it describes fairly accurately the method of procedure—then it is not difficult to understand why it is that the Chinese are, as our correspondent says, more afraid of the Sanitary Board than of the plague itself. It is, of course, impossible for the Sanitary Board to carry out its duties in this respect without causing great irritation and annoyance to the people whose dwellings and whose belongings are fumigated and disinfected. It is an absolutely necessary duty; but it certainly behoves the Sanitary Board to see that no unnecessary damage is done by their employees to the property of the unfortunate tenants, and above all, these people ought not to be left in the streets "to shift for themselves" in the manner described by our correspondent. It is an obvious duty of the Board to provide temporary accommodation for the healthy inmates dislodged from a plague-infected house, not only because they have a claim on the Government to be provided with such, but also because if it is necessary to disinfect their belongings it would seem logical to regard the persons themselves as "contacts" who should be kept under observation. With regard to the other suggestions contained in the letter, the Sanitary Board, having regard to the advice of their medical experts, cannot revert to the former practice of disinfecting a particular flat instead of a whole house. The present state of knowledge as to the infectivity of plague is against half-measures of that description, but there are some observations in the letter to which the Sanitary Board might well give consideration.

Between seven and eight o'clock on the night of 15th inst. in Queen's Road West near its junction with Hollywood Road, four Chinese set on another and robbed him of a purse containing about three dollars. Three escaped, but the victim caught the fourth and with the assistance of another Chinaman who witnessed the robbery held him until the arrival of a lukong. At the Magistracy on Saturday the defendant was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

At the Magistracy on the 18th inst. three Indian watchmen at Quarry Bay shipbuilding yard were charged on the complaint of Mr. J. Lacock, head watchman, with being drunk and disorderly in the shipyard at 11 p.m. on the 17th inst. They were convicted of the charge, and in fining them \$25 each Mr. F. A. Hazeland remarked that it was just such conduct as the defendants had been guilty of that led to serious disturbances. Under the circumstances, therefore, he felt bound to make an example of them.

THE CURRENCY OF INDIA AND CHINA.

(Daily Press, 19th May.)

On the 12th March Mr. J. BARR ROBERTSON, a former resident in Shanghai, read before the Society of Arts a long and in many respects important paper entitled "The Currency Policy of India." Although in the paper and the discussion that followed no single mention is made of the present financial position in China, which in some respects runs parallel with that of India before the closing of the mints, the paper is eminently suggestive for those who are honestly seeking a remedy for the present very dangerous monetary condition in which China finds herself placed. Although the change of the Indian currency from a silver to a gold basis occurred so recently as 1893, the measures taken, as well as the prior situation, have already become history; and, what is more curious, almost forgotten history. In a debate on the subject in the House of Commons on the 29th March, 1898, we find Lord GEORGE HAMILTON using the following strong words as to the position into which Indian finance had fallen:—"What was the position that the late Government had to face? I do not want to use language too strong, but India was unquestionably on the verge of bankruptcy. She could not pay her way, and one of two things was inevitable, either that she would be unable to meet her obligations, or that this country would have had to come to her aid." Now, adds pertinently Mr. ROBERTSON, if that was the position of India, and it cannot be doubted that it was, when the mints were closed and when silver stood at 39s. and the rupee at 1s. 2½d., what would it have been to-day with the rupee fallen to 11d., and silver at 22½d.? China has had to face the latter, and the result is that to all intents and purposes she is bankrupt, and lies, tied hand and foot, at the feet of the nations of Europe. As a natural consequence China is being treated by her very particular friends to some very good but unpalatable advice, the main incentive of the advice in too many instances being an ardent desire to fall in for the remnant of her remaining assets when she shall have been compelled to declare her bankruptcy. This is, however, only the way of the world, and as China would herself have adopted it had affairs only turned the other way about, it cannot be said that she has much to grumble at.

China, however, is a land of possibilities, and so China's condition is a matter that concerns a good many more than her own Government and people; and as many of the European Powers are sincerely desirous of seeing China rehabilitated, it may be accepted that not all the advice with which China is treated springs from any half-concealed desire to become possessor of her remaining effects. The position then in China in many respects is not unlike that of India in 1893; China, as had then India, has a large indebtedness in gold, while she clings almost with desperation to a currency of silver. Owing to improvements in the metallurgic arts, and the discovery of many new sources of supply, silver can be produced in enormous quantities, and at a rate which thirty years ago would have seemed chimerical. The consequence is that to meet her engagements China is compelled to withdraw from her circulation a continually increasing quantity of silver, so that the burden of her debt year by year presses more heavily on the assets of the Empire at large. Similar was the position in India ten years

ago. A great deal has been said on the subject of bimetallicism; it has been erected into a benevolent fetish on the one hand, and exorcised as a malignant demon on the other. As a fact bimetallicism would be a magnificent thing, if it were only possible. The if here is the material point of the argument, and as long as it continues so to be bimetallicism with all its beauties must stand to one side. It has been thrown in the teeth of the Indian Government that the measures it took in 1893 savoured of a "bastard bimetallicism," as if that alone were sufficient to condemn them. We are content to accept the imputation, and yet prepared to justify the Government in the measures it took to extricate itself and the country at large from the very difficult position in which they found themselves. Prior to the 26th June, 1893, silver, being the nominal as well as actual currency of India, the mints of Calcutta and Bombay were open to the coinage of silver in unlimited quantities, the only check being the convenience of the holder of the bullion. Such, of course, is the natural outcome of currency laws and conditions all over the world. The British Government accepts and coins all gold presented to it for the purpose without question as to the quantity in circulation. On the 26th June, ten years ago, the Indian Government announced that it would accept no more silver for coinage, and for the future would only issue rupees in return for gold, charging for each rupee 1s. 4d., or at the rate of sixteen for a sovereign. The rupee was at the moment only worth 1s. 2½d., so not unnaturally many of the best friends of the Government raised the cry of "preposterous." The decision of the Government had been forced upon it by the action of the exchange banks, who like ALEXANDER, the Copper-Smith, saw in the proposal the supersession of their trade. The ways and means for bringing about a change felt to be inevitable had been much discussed publicly, and the banks foreseeing that something must be done, adroitly, as they thought, prepared to make money out of the difficulties of the Government, and imported enormous quantities of silver, which they sent to the mints for conversion into rupees as fast as the latter could turn them out. This circumstance, which really was the crux of the entire matter, is curiously not mentioned by Mr. ROBERTSON. The Government, not usually addicted to heroic measures, especially when finances were concerned, kept its own counsel for once, and skilfully avoided giving the banks any indication of the steps it intended to take. The notification of the immediate closure of the mints came thus upon the banks as a perfect surprise, as the silver they had intended to tender was left as a drug on their hands. This action of the Government was at the time much commented on and canvassed in an unfriendly spirit as amounting almost to sharp practice. Looking back on the position after an interval of ten years it is difficult to see what other course lay open. Had the Government gone beating about the bush, the banks would have found the means to render the conversion impossible. So strong and persistent were, however, these unfriendly strictures that in the end the Government had to make a compromise with the banks, and accept for coinage 20,000,000 rupees. This act had an important effect, and considerably delayed the relieving effect of the Government's action. As the subsequent history of the change of currency gains rather than loses in interest, we shall leave to a future occasion its discussion.

THE NAVY LEAGUE.

(Daily Press, 21st May.)

The mission of Mr. H. P. WYATT, the travelling delegate of the Navy League, has so far been a very pronounced success. In Canada, through which he passed on his way to the East, he was received in the warmest manner, and had the satisfaction of forming several promising branches of the League. In Yokohama he also met with a warm welcome at the hands of the British community, and an influential branch of the Navy League was formed in Japan, including among its friends and supporters the British Minister at Tokyo. At Shanghai, Mr. WYATT likewise found a hearty greeting. The British residents seem to have been eager to establish a branch of the Navy League in the Model Settlement, and at the meeting at the British Consulate there on the 12th inst., when the question was brought up, a most enthusiastic send-off was given to the new Branch, which started with a membership of no less than one hundred and twenty. Mr. WYATT evidently possesses great forensic powers, for both in Yokohama and Shanghai he managed to stir up a warmth of patriotism good to see in the Far East, where most of us are usually too immersed in business to spare much time for the expression of sentiment, however deep-rooted the feeling may be. The meeting at the British Consulate was a large and representative one, the Acting Consul-General taking the chair and being supported by the Chairman of the Municipal Council and most of the principal British residents. We hope that Mr. WYATT will meet as cordial a reception in this Colony when he comes. He will find here already existing a flourishing Branch of the Navy League, but no doubt the occasion of his visit will serve to infuse new energy into the Committee and lead to the acquisition of additional members. In this Malta and Gibraltar of the East—as the late Sir GEORGE BOWEN was fond of styling it during his administration of the Government—if anywhere, the Navy League should be strong and vigorous, and the visit of Mr. WYATT will no doubt give it an useful fillip. At Shameen, too, where an enthusiastic sub-branch of the League exists, and which Mr. WYATT intends, we believe, to visit, that gentleman will be most heartily welcomed. In these days, when matters are so chronically disturbed in the Further East, under the influence of Russian pressure in Manchuria, there is every need for vigilance, and no stimulus should be required by Britons to maintain unflinching their interest in the Empire's first line of defence.

"EMPIRE DAY."

(Daily Press, 21st May.)

In the address delivered by Mr. E. A. HEWITT, at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, mention was made of the fact that the Government had asked the Committee for an expression of opinion upon the suggestion that the 24th of May (the birthday of our late Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA) should be observed hereafter as a public holiday to be known as "Empire Day." Hongkong, of course, will gladly associate itself with the rest of the Empire in a movement of this kind, and the Committee of the Chamber in agreeing to the proposal, and the meeting of members in endorsing that decision, represent the feeling of the British community in the matter. We presume the Government has received a copy of the circular letter which Lord MEATH addressed some time ago to

Colonial statesmen, and the Princes and representative men of India, suggesting the observance of an "Empire Day"—a day on which the attention of scholars in State-aided Schools should be specially directed to Imperial matters. In every part of the King's dominions the suggestion has been received with favour, though there appears some lack of unanimity as to the date on which "Empire Day" should be observed. April 23rd, St. George's Day, has its advocates in some Colonies; and in others where the birthdays of His Majesty the KING and the PRINCE OF WALES are observed, it is thought that these serve the purpose. Judging, however, from the nature of the replies received by Lord MEATH on the subject there is no reason to doubt that when it is seen that there is a consensus of opinion throughout the King's dominions in favour of May 24th as "Empire Day," all the Colonies will quickly bring themselves into line and thus establish not only a memorial of one of the most glorious reigns in British history but also a patriotic festival which will serve to remind us of the unity of the Empire and foster in the young those powerful sentiments of patriotic loyalty which will be a guarantee of strength and support to the Old Country in the years to come. Englishmen, in whatever part of the Empire they reside, will certainly accord the proposal their most active support.

THE GAGE STREET MURDER.

(Daily Press, 22nd May.)

No one who reads the evidence adduced at the trial in the Supreme Court of the man arraigned for complicity in what is known as the Gage Street murder can doubt the justice of the sentence of death passed upon him yesterday by the Acting Chief Justice. Though it was not the condemned man who actually fired the shot, his complicity in the murder was clearly established, and by the law of England he is, equally with the actual perpetrator of the outrage, guilty of murder. YEUNG KUE WAN, the victim of the dastardly crime, was a leader of the reform movement, and in Hongkong followed the profession of a schoolmaster. It was while he was engaged in teaching a class in Gage Street that the room was entered by two of the condemned man's confederates and he was fatally shot. It was an absolutely cold-blooded murder, deliberately planned and carried out for the sake of monetary rewards, and social distinctions ill-befitting the class of men who became the wretched tools of the Chinese Government in this matter. One of the most sensational features of the trial was the clear testimony of the instigation of the murder by the Chinese Government, and the Acting Attorney-General was able not only to adduce testimony that sums amounting to at least \$6,000 had been paid to three of the miscreants by the Canton authorities as rewards, but was able to produce in Court the actual patent conferring, under the viceregal seal of Canton, the distinction of Mandarin of the fifth class upon one of the gang who perpetrated the outrage. It has all along been surmised that the murder was carried out by emissaries of the Chinese Government, and now that the fact has been clearly established, it is to be hoped there will be no delay in taking the necessary diplomatic action at Peking which the circumstances warrant.

Labuan has declared Hongkong to be an infected port, and quarantine regulations will be observed in the case of all vessels arriving there from this port.

CHINA TEA TRADE.

(Daily Press, 20th May.)

We have frequently had occasion to note with regret the gradual decline of the China tea trade and to point out also the absence in China of any of those methods so popular in India and Ceylon to maintain the market. Every mail from the South brings news of something done to advertise the Indian and Ceylon teas, and, if possible, to improve their quality. As a result of these combined and constant efforts on the part of the producers the annual returns show a growing export while the export of China teas is diminishing. How many grocers in England could supply a customer with China tea? Not, we should think, five per cent. It is almost incredible that even in Hongkong there are compradores who do not keep China tea in stock because they have no sale for it. There are doubtless other reasons than that of the persistent advertising of the Southern teas which account for the declining market for the China product. There is, for instance, a failure to keep abreast of modern methods of preparing tea which causes rivals to depreciate China teas by branding the processes of the industry in vogue in the Celestial Empire as "filthy" and primitive. Tea merchants may be familiar with a picture postcard which represents a Chinaman treading barefooted on a mat covered with tea leaves, and the inscription on the card is: "How tea is prepared in China," or words to that effect. Hundreds of these cards are doubtless sold every year and find their way into homes abroad, only to create disgust and a resolve to drink no more China tea. While producers in India and Ceylon have been steadily improving the quality of the tea exported, there seems to be a want of such combined effort on the part of the Chinese producer, and China tea has probably suffered more than any other from the Tea Inspection Law enacted by the United States in 1897. The Senate Committee on Commerce, in reporting the Bill, pointed out that millions of pounds of tea unfit for use were being constantly admitted into the United States. China doubtless contributed a considerable percentage of that trash. There is now in process of formation in the United States a National Association for the purpose of promoting the consumption of tea and of safeguarding its interests, especially by the maintenance of the law against adulterated, impure and trashy tea. The Association will also address itself to the dissemination of information in regard to the quality of tea and to the proper methods of its preparation. America must be regarded as a promising field for such work, as the consumption of tea in the United States does not exceed one pound per head of the population per annum, while in Canada it is over four pounds, in England over six pounds and in Australia over seven pounds. If some of the methods of the Indian and Ceylon growers were copied in China we could look forward with confidence to returning prosperity.

The police are offering a reward of \$200 for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the murderer of the Chinese woman who was found in a dying state on the 10th inst. near the Government store, Wanchai.

Mr. Kidston, Second Secretary of the British Legation at Peking, was thrown while mounting his horse and with one foot in the stirrup, on the 9th, and dragged for nearly 100 yards. His head was badly battered and he was carried into the Legation unconscious, but it was hoped that he had suffered no serious injury.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the members of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held on the 19th inst. in the Chamber Room, City Hall. Mr. E. A. Hewett, vice-chairman, presided, and there were also present Hon. C. W. Dickson, Hon. R. Shewan, Messrs N. A. Siebs, R. C. Wilcox, D. R. Lay, C. Michelau, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins, A. G. Wood, T. Hough, G. Mayer, J. H. Lewis, A. G. Gordon, T. Cotton, Hon. G. Stewart, M. Stewart, J. W. R. Taylor, H. Schubart, A. Beattie, S. D. Setua, K. D. Mistry, E. W. Mitchell, A. J. Raymond, J. R. Michael, W. D. Graham, G. de Champeaux, W. S. Bailey, A. Shelton Hooper, J. Goosmann, O. J. Ellis, C. E. Scott, W. M. Watson, G. H. Medhurst, etc.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The minutes of last annual meeting and of three special meetings held during the year having been confirmed,

The CHAIRMAN said—The report and accounts of the Chamber of Commerce for 1902 have now been before you for some days and with your permission therefore we will take them as read. Before asking you to pass the report and accounts I will, as is usual, make a few remarks with regard to the more important matters which have transpired since our last annual meeting. The year under review has been a busy one so far as the Chamber has been concerned and a number of important questions have been dealt with, as reference to the published correspondence contained in the report will show. In addition, the year 1902 will always stand out prominently in our history as it has seen the Coronation of our gracious ruler His Majesty King Edward VII. We joined with the whole Empire in the grief which was felt at his sudden and dangerous illness; together we rejoiced at his complete recovery and it was with feelings of thankfulness as well as of joy that we all joined in celebrating this important event. Our relations with China have during the year we trust taken another long step forward by the signing at Shanghai on the 5th September of the treaty prepared by the Special Commissioner, Sir James Mackay. Although, like all questions of this sort, we cannot hope to find an unanimous expression of approval given by all concerned, still if this treaty comes into force and its terms are loyally carried out by the Chinese officials it cannot but prove of great and lasting benefit to China and those other powers engaged in trade with her, thus materially advancing the prosperity of this Colony. We have not as yet heard that the terms of the Shanghai treaty have been accepted by any of the other treaty powers, but, as we know, negotiations are now being carried on which we hope may result in a satisfactory agreement being arrived at between the various Governments concerned in the matter. On the 1st November last a new provisional specific tariff was brought into force by the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs as provided for under the terms of the Peace Protocol of 1901 and this has, I believe, up to the present in the main worked satisfactorily. Turning to matters more immediately concerning Hongkong, you will see that many relating to our trade and general welfare have been dealt with in our correspondence with the Colonial Government. In some matters the Government has met our requests to the full. I wish I could add that this were the case on all points submitted. The question of employees and servants which, as you are aware, has been the cause of much inconvenience to residents here in the past has been satisfactorily settled by a recent ordinance which renders all servants on monthly pay leaving their employers without due notice liable to fines or imprisonment. The question of Chinese stow-aways in British ships to Manila has also been considered and a bill is now before the Legislative Council which when passed will, we confidently hope, put a stop to a state of affairs which while serious enough for the owners engaged in the trade might if allowed to continue lead to the weakening of those friendly relations which it is so important should continue between the

Government of Hongkong and that of the Philippines. In one or two other questions we have not, I regret to say, been equally fortunate in securing the desired support of the Government. In a letter dated 25th April, 1902, addressed to the Hon. Colonial Secretary you will find a report of a claim brought by a junk-owner against a British shipping firm. Your Committee fully endorse the argument put forward by the owners of the steamer concerned that such speculative actions should be discouraged and that in similar cases the junk-owner should be required to provide full security for the costs of the defendants should the latter win their case and also that all such actions should be brought within a reasonable time. Your Committee much regret to find the local Government opposed to such proposals and intend to again take up the question. Another matter in which we find ourselves at variance with the Government is the very important one of the licensing of pilots. The facts are fully stated in the reports dated 10th June and 8th September drawn up by a Sub-Committee of the Chamber specially appointed for that purpose. The Committee are quite unable to follow the arguments against the adoption of their suggestions as put forward by the Government officials, more particularly when we remember that the Government has for some time past made the licensing of all steamers and engineers of small steam vessels plying in the harbour compulsory. It is needless to go further into detail as in a centre of business such as this Colony which so largely consists of the shipping trade, most of you are more or less connected with or interested in, and the Committee feel confident that in this matter they can rely upon your cordial support when, as they intend to do, they again take up this question. The question of absconding Chinese debtors has been brought to the notice of the Committee, who regret that in this matter they find themselves in disagreement with the British Consul-General at Canton in his reading of Article XXIII of the Tientsin Treaty. The Committee propose to go further into this question at an early date. The undue advantage which certain junks have obtained in the Canton trade by flying foreign flags has been represented to the Home Government, and we trust that before long a satisfactory solution will be found for dealing with what we cannot but consider is an improper use of foreign flags in Chinese waters. During the past year the Canton Viceroy has endeavoured in several directions to increase his revenue by illegal exactions on foreign trade, notably on opium and yarn. Thanks chiefly to the firm attitude taken by the British Consul-General at Canton, these questions have now been satisfactorily disposed of and your Committee are glad to have this opportunity for acknowledging the courteous consideration they have always received at the hands of Mr. James Scott and their high appreciation for the ability and energy he has displayed in protecting and fostering our trade in his district. (Applause.) It is also fitting that we should acknowledge the manner in which the British Minister Sir E. Satow, has dealt with these matters when laid before him. (Renewed applause.) Considerable attention has been devoted to a scheme for improving the system of storm warnings in order to ensure a more effectual and prompter supply of weather forecasts to vessels on the point of sailing. I am glad to be able to report that we understand the Government has decided to grant what we ask, and it is hoped the new system will be brought into force at an early date. This is more than ever necessary, as the typhoon season is now approaching. During the last year your Committee have carried on some further correspondence with the Joint Telegraph Companies on the question of their rates and we can only express our extreme dissatisfaction with the attitude taken up by these Companies. Bearing in mind the fact that rates from India have been reduced and a reduction of over 20 per cent. has been given the Straits, we must protest against the Telegraph Companies taking advantage of a monopoly which they unfortunately possess in regard to landing rights for lines from the South, thus maintaining so far as this Colony is concerned their charges at what we cannot but consider

an undue figure. The only change which has been accorded us after our representations on the subject has been that the local rates in currency have been increased to meet the depreciation in silver. During the year 1902 the health of the Colony was more satisfactory than has been the case for some years past, but unfortunately since the closing of this report an outbreak of bubonic plague has taken place more serious than that of last year. A most important measure known as the Public Health and Buildings Bill has now been brought into force and this coupled with the more adequate water supply which we trust to secure within a measurable distance of time cannot fail to have a very marked effect upon the general health of the Colony, and will, we trust, put an end to these recurrent epidemics of plague which have at intervals during the past ten years so seriously affected our free intercourse with surrounding countries and cost us so heavily not only in life but also financially. All information at our disposal points to the fact that the foreign trade of China is steadily advancing. The Empire if properly administered can easily meet all its foreign obligations, and we consider therefore there is not the slightest justification for the demand which we understand has been put forward for the payment of customs duties to be made in gold. I have now to refer to the several changes which have taken place in the representatives of the Chamber. Our late Chairman, Sir T. Jackson, having left shortly after our last annual meeting, his place was filled by Mr. C. S. Sharp, while the Vice-Chairmanship was taken by Mr. Poste. To both these gentlemen the Chamber is much indebted for valuable services rendered and I would specially refer to those of Mr. Sharp, who, while having many other calls upon his time, devoted much attention to furthering the interests represented by this Chamber. (Applause.) Mr. Whitehead, who for so many years has represented the Chamber in the Legislative Council, has unfortunately left the Colony, and I feel sure the members will all cordially endorse the appreciation of his services which at the time was expressed by the Chairman. (Applause.) Mr. Whitehead has now been succeeded by Mr. Shewan, in whose hands we feel our interests are well placed. (Renewed applause.) I much regret that it is my unpleasant duty to refer to an entry in the accounts with regard to certain defalcations of one of our clerks. The form in which the accounts are now rendered and other steps which have been taken by the Secretary as to the method of collecting subscriptions, etc., etc., will I believe make impossible in the future a similar occurrence. The auditors have informed me that they are now satisfied with the manner in which the books are kept. For some time past it has been felt that the rules of the Chamber, which were drawn up 30 years ago, should be revised and brought up to date. This has now been done, and you will be asked in a later resolution to consider, and if approved of, to pass these new rules. Since the closing of the report other questions have arisen and it appears desirable that I should refer to those requiring special attention. The all important currency question has during the past year received the earnest attention of the Committee who, however, could not see a way to making any recommendation on the subject, although we realised the many disabilities experienced in the course of our business by an unstable and steadily declining value of silver. A largely attended meeting of the Chamber was held on the 18th February at the requisition of certain members, when a great deal of data bearing on the question was placed before the Chamber. The resolution then passed asked the Government to extend the Straits Currency Commission to Hongkong. This resolution was in due course handed to the Government, and has, we understand, been forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. There the question now rests, but no doubt more will be heard anon. Public attention has recently been again directed towards the position of the proposed new Admiralty dock, which it is generally considered will if completed seriously interfere with the future development of this town. A petition which has been signed by most of the members of this Chamber has already been sent to the Secretary

of State praying that a Royal Commission be appointed to report on the matter. The question being of such universal importance it was dealt with by a Committee drawn from all sections of the community, but as it is so closely related to the business progress of our town it appears to me fitting that, as we hope a full enquiry will be held later on, this meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, as such, should endorse the movement having in view a removal of the Dock to another site. (Applause.) I take that gentlemen, to mean that the Chamber does endorse the petition, and I will ask the gentlemen of the Press to make a note of the fact. The proposed compulsory adoption of the official vocabulary for telegraphic use has again been before your Committee. As you are no doubt aware the new vocabulary has been much enlarged and now contains over one million words. Recently a communication has been received from the New York Chamber of Commerce asking our assistance in supporting their protest against the compulsory adoption of this vocabulary. The Committee following in the steps of their predecessors, are unanimous in endorsing this protest, and last week therefore a telegram was despatched to the London Chamber of Commerce asking them to request the Post Office Officials to place our protest before the International Meeting of the Telegraph Companies which we understand is to be held in London on the 28th May. From an examination of this proposed vocabulary it would appear that if forced upon us many, possibly most of the telegraph codes now in use throughout the world will have to be largely revised and in most cases reprinted. We consider that the advantages which the adoption of this vocabulary offers does not justify the trouble and enormous expense which would be entailed on business firms all over the world were the use of this code made compulsory. I have only one other point to refer to. We have recently had brought home to us in a forcible manner that Great Britain and her Colonies are an entity and that we, as a far distant outpost of that Empire under whose flag we dwell in safety, are closely bound up with the well-being not only of the mother country but of our brother Colonists throughout the world. The Committee has recently been asked by the Government whether we approve of the 24th May being fixed as a public holiday to be observed as "Empire Day" throughout the British Dominions. (Applause.) I feel sure the members of this Chamber will readily endorse the decision of the Committee in agreeing to this proposal. It is not only fitting that this holiday should be observed in part as a memorial of that gracious Sovereign who for so many years ruled over us and who spent her best endeavours in promoting the well being and happiness, not only of her own people but of all mankind, but also that by this yearly celebration of "Empire Day" the children of the Colony should thus learn from their earliest days the great lesson that they are citizens of the British Empire and have part and parcel in her joys and sorrows. (Applause.)

In seconding the motion, Mr. G. H. MEYHART said—Gentlemen, I congratulate the Committee on the very satisfactory results of their labours during the past twelve months, and if their efforts on every occasion have not been attended with success, still very much good work has been accomplished. I regret the Telegraph Companies have not seen their way to lower their tariff rates to Europe, and hope that the representations made by the Chamber with regard to the compulsory adoption of the proposed official vocabulary will have the desired effect, the otherwise the cost to all business firms will be enormous, if they have to revise and reprint their codes. I venture to express the hope that the negotiations now being carried on by the various Treaty Powers may ultimately result in a series of new treaties, based more or less on the lines of the "Hockay Shanghai Treaty," as such cannot but result in a large increase in the trade with China, benefiting all concerned. We are indeed fortunate in having a Minister at Peking who is so keenly alive to the importance of seeing that our treaties are not violated by the local Chinese authorities, and are doubly fortunate in our present Consul-General at

Canton, who has repeatedly shown himself both determined and able to protect our interests. (Applause.) The Chairman has referred to the new Admiralty Dock, and I trust that the petition so extensively signed will lead to the present site being available for the expansion of the City so much needed. With these remarks I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts. (Applause.)

There were no other remarks, and the motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The next business was the adoption of the new rules circulated some three weeks ago.

In reference to these, the CHAIRMAN said they had been very carefully drawn up and did not involve any very considerable changes. Their principal provision was with regard to the election of a representative of the Chamber to the Legislative Council.

Mr. R. C. WILCOX seconded the proposition, and said he had the more pleasure in doing so that he had been one of the Sub-Committee engaged in compiling the new rules. They were very much needed, because the original rules had not been revised since the Chamber was founded, and did not cover many circumstances that had since arisen.

The motion was carried unanimously. The CHAIRMAN next proposed that the revised scale of commission on brokerages be adopted. This also had been circulated to members, who would of course understand that the proposed scale was the maximum.

When one or two slight amendments had been made, Mr. A. SHELTON HOOPE seconded the proposal, remarking that they had it on the authority of a former Chief Justice of Hongkong that St. John's Cathedral represented the only freehold in the Colony; all others were leasehold.

The scale as amended was adopted and passed. The meeting then proceeded to the election of a Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN said Mr. Lowe had been appointed to the office on the resignation of Mr. Wilcox, and had carried on the work with entire satisfaction. (Applause.) He had great pleasure in moving that the appointment of Mr. Lowe be confirmed.

Mr. G. STEWART seconded, and the motion was carried *nem. con.*

On the proposal of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. J. R. MICHAEL, the admission to membership of a number of local firms was confirmed.

The concluding item of business was the election of a Committee, and Mr. J. R. LAW proposed that the existing one be re-elected.

Mr. A. J. RAYMOND seconded, and the motion was agreed to without opposition.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I am much obliged to you for your attendance and for the unanimous manner in which you have re-elected us to look after your interests during the coming year.

The meeting thereupon dispersed.

SIBERIAN RAILWAY PROJECTS.

The Russian railway authorities are turning their attention to projects for constructing a series of "feeding" lines to run southwards from the Siberian Railway down to the frontiers of China. Thus, this second period of railway construction in Siberia is about to be entered upon very much sooner than was proposed originally, for early in the spring the surveys for this first of these branch lines will be made. The Russian Government intends to build a railway from the station of Palomoshnaya to the town of Barnaul, an important mining and smelting centre on the Ob, in Western Siberia, and 290 miles S.S.W. of Tomsk. The line from Barnaul will be of great commercial importance, and it will run from that place to Biisk, and along the course of the Katuna, up to the Chinese frontier, whence it can be extended by way of Kobdo and Uliasutai, into the interior of China, and ultimately have its terminus in Peking. It is said that this railway will not be carried out with undue haste, and that, in fact, ten years will be occupied in carrying out the scheme. Still, a start will be made this year in constructing the Barnaul Railway and its branch line to Tashkend, and its eastern branch line to the Chinese frontier.

THE STRAITS CURRENCY.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

GOLD STANDARD RECOMMENDED.

The Report, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendices of the Straits Settlements Currency Committee (Sir David Barbour, Messrs. Adamson, Johnson, and Blain) is now published. It is dated March, 1903, and was originally issued "Confidential—printed for the use of the Colonial Office."

The report extends to 16 pp. and from it we extract the following as the more immediately important parts:—

The Committee were asked to make a report with reference to—

"(1) The expediency or otherwise of introducing a gold standard of currency in the Straits Settlements and the neighbouring Malay States;

"(2) The practicability of making the change and the steps which in the opinion of the Committee should be taken to effect this object if the change should be decided on."

2. The letter proceeded to say, "With regard to the expediency of the change Mr. Chamberlain realises that the Committee may not feel themselves in a position to offer final advice on the subject, but in that case he trusts that they will be able to indicate the lines on which further investigation should be made locally before a final decision is come to."

COUNTRIES FALLING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE COMMITTEE'S ENQUIRY.

3. The Committee apprehend that in addition to the Colony of the Straits Settlements, the scope of their enquiry includes the Federated Malay States of Perak, Selangor, Neigri Sembilan and Pahang, and also the State of Johore. In the opinion of the Committee, it is desirable that the standard of value and the currency of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States should continue to be identical, and they hold the same opinion with regard to Johore.

4. There already exists an Agreement between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Sultan of Johore, regarding the supply of the subsidiary coins of the Straits Settlements for use in Johore, but altogether apart from the Agreement the Committee consider that Johore should, on general grounds, be included in any scheme that may be decided on for the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, and this is in accordance with opinion of the Representative of the Sultan and Government of Johore in this country, who appeared as a witness before the Committee.

5. The Committee have learnt that Sarawak is anxious to join in such a scheme, but they do not consider that any Colonies or States other than those already specified fall within the scope of their enquiry.

ACTUAL CIRCULATION.

22. The actual circulation of the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States and Johore at the present time is composed of—

I. British, Mexican and Hongkong dollars.—The amount of Hongkong dollars still in circulation is so small that it may be neglected. It is impossible to form a reliable estimate of the number of British and Mexican dollars circulating in the Settlements, the Malay States and Johore, but the Colonial Treasurer roughly estimates the number at 30,000,000 dollars. This total, which is only put forward as a guess, includes the specie reserve against the Government Note Issue and cash in the bank.

II. Subsidiary Silver Coins.—The amount issued since 1871 is 7,212,000 dollars (nominal). It is estimated by the Colonial Treasurer that of this amount 300,000 dollars is in Foreign Countries.

III. Subsidiary Copper Coins.—The amount issued since 1871 is 1,857,500 dollars (nominal).

IV. Government Note Issue.—The amount in circulation on the 10th of December, 1902, was 13,393,440 dollars. Against this, 8,714,555 75 dollars was held in coin on the same date.

V. Bank Notes.—The average monthly circulation in 1901 was 5,473,755 dollars. The figure for 1902 is not yet available.

HISTORY OF THE QUESTION.

The Report recapitulates the history of the consideration of a gold standard for the Straits Settlements, dating from the year 1893,

when the Indian mints were closed to the free coinage of silver.

THE EXPEDIENCY OF CHANGE.

33. The question at issue is whether it is better for the Straits Settlements and the neighbouring Malay States at the present time, and under existing conditions, to maintain the silver standard or to change to a gold one, and the Committee have endeavoured as far as possible to treat the matter from a practical standpoint. In this view we have considered such papers and documents as would assist us in forming a correct view of the economic position of the Straits Settlements, as well as of the commercial and financial relations of that Colony with the neighbouring States.

34. We have also examined a number of witnesses, most of whom have had a personal experience of the modes of conducting business in the Straits Settlements and the East generally. These witnesses are not unanimous, but the majority of them are in favour of the establishment of a gold standard. The Committee have tried to make their list of witnesses fairly representative of the different interests concerned, but, but from the nature of the case, the witnesses we have examined have represented rather the classes who are in close connection with this and other European countries than the natives of the Straits Settlements and the adjoining Malay States, or the Chinese who form so large a proportion of the population.

35. We see no reason, however, to think that the establishment of a gold standard could directly affect in an injurious manner the wage-earning classes in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, and we are disposed to think that such a change would, at any rate for a time, have the opposite effect. These classes constitute the majority of the persons interested in the matter who have not been fully represented before us.

36. So far as the European community are concerned there can be little doubt that whereas they were divided in opinion in 1897 and previously, they are now nearly unanimous in favour of change to a gold standard. The Committee have received a representation to the effect that it is absolutely essential that the currency should be placed on a gold basis with as little delay as possible signed by almost all the firms and public companies of the Straits Settlements represented in this country, and on the Continent (bankers excepted). A petition has also been forwarded by the Governor signed not only by Europeans and those in receipt of salaries whose homes are in countries with gold standards such as India and Ceylon, but also by a number of wealthy and influential Chinese, the revenue farmers, shipmasters, bankers, merchants and landowners. The petitioners, without expressing any views as to the sterling value to be given to the dollar, express the opinion that it is extremely desirable that the legal currency of the Colony and of the Federated Malay States should have a fixed relative value to the British sterling sovereign. The petition represents that violent fluctuations in exchange are very detrimental to the general interest of the Colony, that even if the contention that a dollar of low value stimulates a portion of the trade of the Colony be granted, it must without doubt be admitted that there are numerous interests which have been prejudicially affected by the severe fall in silver which has recently taken place, and that it is the opinion of those of the petitioners, who desire a dollar of low value, that there must be some point at which the advantages derived from low exchange become distinct disadvantages and that this point has been passed.

37. The Singapore and Penang Chambers of Commerce and the Municipality of Singapore favour a gold standard. In regard to the Federated Malay States opinion seems more divided. It is stated in the Governor's telegram of the 25th of December that the planters favour a gold standard and the Perak miners also. Other miners in the Federated Malay States prefer the existing silver standard of value. A petition very numerously signed by all the principal Penang Asiatic traders, asks for a gold standard. A numerously signed petition in favour of a silver standard has been received by the Governor from Singapore, the signatures being almost exclusively Chinese.

38. It is a matter of course that the immense majority of the people concerned in this enquiry are unable to support any opinion on the complicated question of the best standard of value by reasons which would stand examination. The fact remains that the majority of those able to form an opinion appear to be in favour of a change to a gold standard, the chief exceptions being the banking community and the mining community. The latter, if we except those in receipt of money wages, have probably been the principal gainers from the continuous decline in the gold value of the dollar.

39. There is no question that the Straits Settlements and the adjoining Malay States have prospered under a silver standard. Trade has grown largely. The values of the imports and exports and the growth of trade during the last twenty years are shown in the following figures:—

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

	Imports.	Exports.
1881 ...	\$84,599,397	\$77,925,962
1891 ...	\$135,886,217	\$125,805,772
1901 ...	\$310,381,094	\$266,553,270

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

	Imports.	Exports.
1882 ...	5,669,078	5,538,641
1892 ...	19,161,159	22,662,359
1901 ...	39,524,603	63,107,177

These valuations are in silver, but even if the imports and exports for these years be valued in gold the increase is very great. Prosperity is everywhere apparent.

40. It is contended that there would have been the same or greater growth of trade and prosperity if a gold standard had been in existence for the last ten years. However that may be, we are of opinion that there must be a point at which the advantages said to be derived from a low or falling exchange cease, and distinct disadvantages are experienced. As the dollar has now fallen in value from 4s. 2d. to about 1s. 7d., the time has come at which these interests which have continuously suffered from the fall may fairly claim to be protected from further loss, unless it should appear that the disadvantages of adopting the necessary remedial measures would outweigh the benefits to be derived therefrom.

41. Fluctuation in exchange is undoubtedly a grave disadvantage to the community generally. It introduces an element of speculation which constantly interferes with legitimate business. The introduction of a gold standard will not do away with this evil, but will transfer it from the trade with gold countries, to the trade with silver countries. The trade with gold countries, however, is much larger than that with silver countries, as will be seen from the figures supplied by the Singapore Chamber of Commerce [Appendix 18 (12)] The disproportion in favour of trade with gold countries will be increased by the recent addition of Siam to the list of gold countries, and the probable addition in the near future of the Philippines. The same course may be followed in other countries with which the Straits are in commercial relations, and which now employ the silver standard, but we see no prospect of any such change being made in China; and the places immediately adjoining that country, which depend largely for their prosperity on their trade with it, will consequently have a strong inducement to maintain the same standard of value.

42. Although the aggregate of the trade with China and other silver-using countries is smaller in amount than that with gold countries, it has been represented to us that the number of transactions with the silver-using countries is larger, and that although the existing evils might be transferred to a different class of operations by the adoption of a gold standard, their magnitude would not really be reduced.

43. An important consideration is the difficulty under present conditions of obtaining capital from gold countries. The Straits Government have now no debt and the Federated Malay States have no external debt. We understand, however, that the Straits Government are contemplating the raising of loans for important public works. This capital cannot be found locally except at high rates of interest, and if a gold loan be raised in London, a fall in exchange may impose an additional burden on the Straits Government, both as regards payment of interest and repayment of capital. The same difficulty will

be found by the Municipality of Singapore who are about to raise a loan of some £25,000. With rapidly developing countries such as the Straits and the Malay States, it is highly desirable to encourage the investment of European capital, and the absence of fixity of exchange with Western countries undoubtedly discourages such investment, and may also tend to exclude British and other European traders.

44. The gold obligations of the Government are heavy in connection with the pay of their staff. They have now placed all the higher officials on sterling salaries. The pensions of retired officers involve a further gold obligation.

45. The recent fall in the gold value of silver, not only aggravates the previously existing difficulties, but may give rise to further difficulties of the same class both in the case of the Straits Government and of private persons. As to the future gold value of silver we are unwilling to express any opinion. The evidence given before us by Mr. Pixley is interesting and shows that there are no reasons to anticipate a further immediate fall of any magnitude. Other witnesses have expressed the same opinion and, as it appears to us, on good grounds. But a very similar state of matters in the past has, not unfrequently, been followed by further and unexpected falls in gold value, and the future must be admitted to be quite uncertain.

55. There are various methods which might be adopted for the establishment of an independent gold standard in the Straits Settlements. The first which we wish to mention is that of which the leading idea originated with a Sub-Committee of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, and is explained in its Report of November 6, 1897. Under that proposal the Straits Government would obtain a supply of notes of small denominations, especially of one dollar notes. This supply would require to be amply sufficient to cover the whole number of Mexican and British dollars circulating in the area of the Colony and the Malay States in which it is proposed to establish the gold standard. The object of obtaining these notes would be temporarily to substitute them for the Mexican and British dollars as the currency of the country, and, later on, to exchange these notes for coins of a new currency special to the Straits and issued on a gold basis. We have considered the details of the measures by which this could be carried out but as for reasons given below, we do not see our way to recommending the plan, we have not thought it necessary to include them in this Report.

56. If the procedure above indicated could be successfully followed the question of introducing a gold standard into the Straits Settlements would be solved in the speediest way, and solved in a form which would not impose any cost on the Government. But the question whether the general population would quietly accept notes for coin throughout the country is one in regard to which we feel great doubt. From what is known of India we have no hesitation in saying that no such plan could have been or could be adopted in that country, and although the proposal was made by a Sub-Committee of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, and is supported by other persons who have practical experience of the country, we consider that the risk of its failure owing to the possible suspicion and opposition on the part of the general native population is so great that on the evidence before us we cannot recommend its adoption.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

57. The plan which we recommend is gradually to introduce a special Straits dollar of the same weight and fineness as the British dollar at present current in the East to be substituted for the Mexican and British dollars, the latter dollars being demonetised as soon as the supply of new dollars is sufficient to permit of this being done with safety. Under this plan it will be necessary for the Straits to obtain a considerable supply of the new dollars, and as soon as this is received, the new dollars should be made full legal tender concurrently with the Mexican and British dollars, and steps should be taken to put them into circulation. The first supply of new dollars might be obtained (with the consent of the Indian Government) by remitting to one of the Indian Mints a portion of the coin reserve of the Currency Commissioners to be melted down and converted into the new Straits dollars, and this process might be continued

until practically the whole coin reserve is converted into new dollars. If it was found that this was a slower process than was desirable the Government could consider the expediency of purchasing silver for coining purposes.

58. Simultaneously with the arrival of the first supply of the new dollars and with the making of them legal tender, the import of Mexican and British dollars should be temporarily prohibited and the export of the new dollars should also be prohibited. As there is ordinarily a large import of Mexican and British dollars into the Straits, and subsequent export of them, we think it likely that when their import is prohibited there would be a tendency towards a considerable drain of these coins from the Straits Settlements and if the new dollars are freely supplied, the change of currency might be completed without any great delay.

59. When the currency is so largely composed of the new dollars as to justify the measure, the Mexican and British dollars should be finally demonetised and the Straits Settlements would then be in the position in which India was when the change of standard was undertaken in that country, with, however, the very important advantage that there would not be an enormous proportion of the new coins either hoarded or circulating in foreign countries, which might, by being thrown into circulation, indefinitely delay the establishment of the gold standard.

60. After the Straits Settlements had arrived at this stage, the procedure might be exactly the same as it was in the case of India, i.e., after sufficient Straits dollars had been coined to meet the requirements of business in the Colony and the adjoining States, the coinage of dollars would cease until the exchange value of the dollar had reached whatever value in relation to the sovereign might be decided on by the Government as the future value of the Straits dollar. After this stage is reached the Straits Government would issue the new dollars in exchange for gold, and at the fixed rate.

61. When the gold standard is established, it would not be indispensable that any gold coins should be made legal tender in the Colony and the States. But the Government should be prepared not only to give in exchange for a sovereign such number of dollars as are hereafter declared equivalent to a sovereign, but also to give sovereigns in exchange for dollars at the same rate so long as gold is available, or to give bills on the Crown Agents in London based on the fixed rate of exchange.

62. The above method would be rather slow in operation and would involve some, though not very great, expenditure, but it would be a perfectly safe, and, we believe, sure method of establishing a gold standard, involving no risk and creating the minimum of disturbance, while we do not anticipate that any very serious delay would occur before the gold standard became effective. If the time within which the gold standard becomes effective is unduly prolonged, the matter might be expedited by establishing a gold reserve, and in any case we think that the profit made on the coinage of dollars after the establishment of a gold standard should be set aside as a gold reserve; the whole or any portion of it being, if thought desirable, invested in gold securities.

63. There remain two matters on which we think it expedient to offer some observations. It has been represented to us that the trade of the Straits Settlements is accompanied and facilitated by a large import and re-export of silver dollars, and it is feared that that trade might be injured if either the import of Mexican and British dollars were prohibited, or if Mexican and British dollars ceased to be the legal currency. As regards this matter we desire to point out that the prohibition of the import of Mexican and British dollars would only be a temporary measure; and that simultaneously the exchange of the new special Straits dollar for the existing currency would provide a supply of Mexican and British dollars more than sufficient to meet the wants of trade, while after the completion of the exchange, and on the demonetisation of the British and Mexican dollar, prohibition of importation would be withdrawn and Mexican and British dollars might continue to be imported and exported as merchandise in any quantities the trade of the Straits

Settlement with foreign countries might require. To allay possible apprehension, however, it might be well to provide when the general import of Mexican and British dollars is prohibited, that such dollars might be imported for purposes of re-export, with the sanction in each case of the Straits Government and on such condition as the Government might prescribe.

64. A large amount of subsidiary silver coins has been issued in the Straits, and a portion of it, approximately estimated by the Colonial Treasurer at 300,000 dollars is in circulation outside the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States and Johore. Some, if not all, of these coins will be returned to the Straits Settlements when a gold standard is established. But we do not anticipate any serious trouble from this cause. If they are returned and put into circulation in such quantities as do not cause the subsidiary coinage to fall below its face value no harm will be done, and if the subsidiary coin falls below its face value the tendency of such coin to re-urn would be checked. Under the most unfavourable circumstances the difficulty could be met by the Straits Government withdrawing a portion of the subsidiary coins.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 18th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR HENRY S. BERKELEY (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CALENDAR.

There were six cases on the calendar, these implicating 14 persons, and including one charge of murder, two of manslaughter, one of fire-raising, one of robbery and one of perjury.

CHARGE OF PERJURY.

On the application of Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor, the Acting Attorney-General asked his Lordship to allow the case No. 3 on the list, in which Lau Mui was charged with perjury in a Land Court claim to stand over till next Sessions.

His Lordship agreed to the adjournment.

ARSON.

The first case called was that in which Ho Hing and Wong Ping were charged with arson in connection with the fire at 205, Queen's Road West on 18th April.

They pleaded not guilty.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., Acting Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), conducted the prosecution. He stated to his Lordship that in connection with this case there had also been committed for trial a small boy named Ho Yit. He had considered the evidence carefully and did not think it advisable to include him in the indictment. He accordingly asked that the boy be discharged.

His Lordship ordered the boy to be discharged.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. J. M. A. Thiessen, W. J. Hill, J. Cruikshank, J. A. T. Plummer, H. A. Lammert, P. Dow, and J. A. de Carvalho.

The Acting Attorney-General in opening the case said that the accused were husband and wife. The house where the fire occurred consisted of a basement and three floors, all separately let. The basement was used for storing wood; the ground floor above the basement was a prosperous tailor's shop. The first floor was where the prisoners lived and ostensibly carried on a tailor's business. He would show the jury that they had practically no goods there. On the second floor was a family house. The ground at the back of this house was one story lower than at the front, being built on the lower side of Queen's Road where the ground falls very rapidly towards the water. The draper's shop was on the level. On the night of the fire the basement was locked up; it was a mere godown. In the draper's shop on the ground floor the inmates were asleep. On the first floor there were only the two prisoners and the small boy who had just been discharged and who was found asleep on the verandah. On the second floor there was a large family of about ten people all asleep. About a quarter to four o'clock that morning a Chinese constable on

duty saw flames coming out of the door of the basement floor. He looked through and saw a fire also burning inside. He broke through and found a separate fire underneath the staircase. He alarmed the inmates and then went for the police. A few minutes later an English sergeant arrived and made an examination of the premises. He smelt kerosene, as the Chinese constable had. He found it on the wooden staircase and traced it up to the first floor, where the door of the room was opened by the male prisoner who was fully dressed and prepared to leave. A thorough examination of the premises was then made, with the assistance of the inspector, and the first floor was found to be strewn with pieces of rag, cotton wool and paper all soaked in kerosene. The walls and floor were found to be sprinkled with kerosene. A cubicle door was soaked with kerosene, and there was every sign of preparations for a fire. The hands of the prisoner were also covered with kerosene, and matches and twists of paper were found in his pockets. A locked box which was found on the first floor and removed by the police was subsequently opened and found to contain abundance of rags saturated with kerosene. There were traces of burning on the first floor. The partitions and woodwork had been lighted at several places. A partition was torn down and the pieces of wood scattered about the rest of the premises were evidently torn from this partition and these fragments were all saturated with kerosene. The place was in the greatest possible confusion and was almost destitute of contents. When the police examined the basement they found that a board had been removed from the staircase and underneath this was a quantity of rags soaked with kerosene, and the wood stacked in the basement had been lighted at that place. That was the fire which the Chinese constable first saw and extinguished. The fire was evidently lighted by somebody both in the basement and on the first floor, and it was clear that when the police, very fortunately, saw the fire in the basement and extinguished it the prisoners were obliged to extinguish their fire on the first floor or they would have been discovered. Unmistakable traces of fire were subsequently found and it appeared that the prisoners thereupon had collected the rags and sticks soaked in oil and put them in this box and locked them up in order to destroy the traces of their operations. Their motive was, without any reasonable question, to defraud the insurance company. The contents of the premises were insured for \$2,000 at the time of the fire, and he thought he would prove they were not worth \$50. All the valuables and money belonging to the accused were found in the woman's pockets, and she also had in her possession a number of pawn-tickets relating almost entirely to the stock, which the prisoners had pawned during the few days immediately preceding the fire. It was perfectly clear that the woman as well as the man was implicated. There were in these premises at the time of the fire some 20 persons, and it was little short of a miracle that the Chinese constable arrived just in the nick of time to give them the alarm; had he been two minutes later probably no one would have been able to extinguish it.

Evidence was then taken.

E. W. Carpenter, executive engineer in the P.W.D., put in and proved a plan of the premises.

Chinese Constable 262, who discovered the outbreak of fire, stated that he first saw that the basement door was burning. He alarmed the people on the upper floors. Some of the neighbours came and helped him to put out the fire. There was a strong smell of kerosene. There was a separate fire under the staircase. He afterwards reported the matter at the police station.

The master of the draper's shop next gave evidence. When he was aroused by the alarm of fire, he said, he went and looked into the back lane and saw smoke coming from the basement floor. He rented the whole premises. The male accused tenanted the first floor as a tailor. Witness went into the basement after the fire was put out. He subsequently went upstairs with the English sergeant. On the first floor everything was in a state of confusion. He valued the goods on the first floor at \$89. Of that value, \$79 was for stock.

Sergeant J. Grant deposed that when he went to the premises with the Chinese constable he found a number of small pieces of wood, showing signs of burning, about the door and the stairway. From the staircase a plank had been taken away. There was a strong smell of kerosene. The pieces of wood lying about were not the same as the wood stored there, having apparently belonged to a partition which they found torn down. On going upstairs he found the staircase was saturated with kerosene all the way up to the first floor. When he entered the house on this floor he found traces of burning and there was a strong smell of kerosene.

Chief Inspector H. G. Baker stated that when he inspected the premises on the morning in question he observed that the door of the basement had been burst open and was charred. There were signs of there having been a fire. An upright plank was missing from the staircase, which all the way from the bottom to the first floor had been saturated with kerosene. On examining the first floor, he found signs of burning, and the cubicles smelt very strongly of kerosene. The rooms were in a state of great disorder, rags, old shoes and paper strewn all over the floor. In a box he found a piece of rope by which the male prisoner said, when examined before the Magistrate, that he intended to escape over the verandah. In the kitchen he found a kerosene tin containing a little kerosene. The male prisoner's hands smelt very strongly of kerosene.

F. Browne, Government Analyst, deposed that he had analysed and tested a number of articles brought from the house where the fire occurred. He gave evidence in detail of the results of his examination which went to show that the articles in question were more or less saturated with kerosene.

Hiro Mikasahara, chief clerk of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, agents for the Meiji Insurance Co., stated that in May last the first floor of 205, Queen's Road West was insured with them by the male prisoner for \$2,000—stock, \$1,500; furniture, \$300; and clothing, \$20. The clerk who preceded him inspected the premises before the policy was issued. He saw the premises after the fire and estimated the value of the contents at about \$100.

Chan Sing, the tenant of the basement floor said that his premises were all in order when last inspected by him on the 16th April.

Kum Kun, shoemaker, said that on the night of the fire there were ten people sleeping on the second floor of the house.

Lan Sun, a married woman, who resides opposite No. 7 Police Station and who searched the female prisoner when arrested, spoke as to the money, etc., found in her possession. There were six rolls of money in ten and twenty cents pieces; some cords or strings and eight pawn-tickets.

C. P.-S. 264 stated that the amount of money discovered in the female prisoner's possession was \$54.68.

This concluded the evidence.

The male prisoner, when asked if he had anything to say, declared that the fire took place about three o'clock. He was awakened by some one crying out an alarm of fire down below. He saw the smoke coming out. Confused by the alarm he went to get a piece of rope from below the bed with which to escape, and in doing so he overturned a lamp which was burning near his bed. The smoke was very thick and he could not see anything. He did not blame his wife for overturning the lamp he did it himself. He used to hang a lamp over a shelf and that was the reason the kerosene was found there. Some time ago a sanitary inspector came to him and told him that he must pull down the cubicle partitions and make a hole at the back of this shelf; this he carried out. Some of the charred wood found by the police was charred by the burning of joss-paper and by cooking. As regards one box which smelt of kerosene, he said the sergeant had poured the oil into it out of a kerosene-pot. He admitted that his house smelt of kerosene, but he had nothing to do with the kerosene on the staircase, which was a common staircase. He carried on business as a tailor; sometimes his place was full of goods and sometimes he sent them away and got in new goods. He took out the insurance policy not because he wanted to

set fire to the place, but to protect himself from loss.

The female prisoner said the fire took place on the basement floor; they knew nothing about it. There was a great disturbance and she told her husband to go down and help to put the fire out; he did so.

The male accused added that the reason his hands smelt of kerosene when he was examined by the police inspector was that he had overturned the lamp.

His Lordship, in summing up, said the police evidence had shown in a manner that admitted of no doubt that this fire was deliberately and purposely laid by somebody. It was a very suspicious circumstance indeed against the prisoners that there was only some \$100 worth of goods on the premises when the insurance was for \$2,000.

The jury retired at 2.30 to consider their verdict and after an absence of four minutes returned a verdict of guilty against both prisoners.

The Court adjourned from 1.35 till 2.35 o'clock.

His Lordship, addressing the first prisoner, said he had been found guilty of the very serious crime of setting fire to a house in which people were living at the time. That was one of the most serious crimes under the English law, and had the policeman not discovered the fire in the nick of time the sentence his Lordship found it his duty to pass upon him would have been much heavier than that which he was going to pass. It appeared that for the sake of getting some \$2,000 from the insurance company this prisoner had deliberately attempted and partially succeeded in his attempt to burn the house down regardless of the people living in it. The evidence was abundantly clear that the prisoner was guilty. For the offence that had been committed the law allowed the Judge to pass a sentence of life imprisonment. But having regard to the fact that the policeman discovered the fire in time to prevent any risk to life the sentence upon the prisoner would be a comparatively mild one. However, it was necessary that the prisoner and those of his kind who for the sake of getting insurance money would set fire to a house, irrespective of consequences, should understand that in any circumstances the consequences, if the guilty party were found out, would be very serious. The offence which the prisoner had committed was extremely easy to commit and extremely difficult to detect, and the number of cases undetected was very great. The offence, as was the case here, the charge was brought home clearly the Judge should make an example which would be a deterrent to others likely to offend in the same direction. The sentence upon the male prisoner would be seven years' imprisonment with hard labour. Had the fire not been discovered and the people in the house had been burned prisoner would have been hanged. As regards the woman his Lordship took a milder view of her offence, not because it was not legally as great as that of her husband but because most likely she did it under his influence if not by his compulsion. But it was necessary that Chinese women should understand, if they did not already understand it, that they could not join their husbands in illegal practices without bringing themselves within the danger of being punished by law. Sentence—three years' imprisonment with hard labour.

ALLEGED MAN-SLAUGHTER.

Man Yee Kwok Kau, Chan Yau and Man Cheung were charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of one Chun Ng.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. M. Steger, P. Hardmann, C. W. J. Hagelberg, A. E. Asger, F. F. Barretto, A. H. Ough and H. T. Wilgress.

Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law, who conducted the prosecution on behalf of the Crown, stated in opening the case that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. are the owners of Jardine's Wharf situated near West Point, which was undergoing structural repairs. On 7th April about noon an accident occurred to one of the pile-drivers which were being used at this wharf, and four or five outside coolies who were not employed upon the work gathered around to have a look at this pile-driver and the accident which had happened. This seemed to have incensed

two or three of the men regularly employed upon the work and No. 4 prisoner, Man Cheung, proceeded to get rid of one or more of these coolies, one of whom was the deceased, Man Cheung beat him, with a view, he supposed, to get him away from the place and undoubtedly he was either knocked or pulled to the floor of the wharf. Evidence would be called to show that when on the ground deceased was assaulted by the other three prisoners—kicked and otherwise maltreated. The affray lasted only a minute or so, after which these men returned to their work. The assaulted man was very severely injured. He set down and rested on the wharf. There was a person with him who remained beside him for some time. The injured man complained of feeling great pains in his abdomen and eventually he felt very giddy and fell on the ground. He remained there from about noon till about five o'clock, at which time a passer-by noticed his condition and informed the police. Two policemen went there with an ambulance and finding his condition to be very serious removed him to the Government Civil Hospital, where he was found to be suffering from a ruptured spleen. Later on that evening, as the only way of saving his life, an operation was performed upon him and his spleen was removed. It was then found that his spleen had been ruptured and his abdominal cavity was full of blood. He died early in the morning of the 9th. His spleen was abnormally large; it weighed over 2 lbs. whereas the normal weight of a spleen among the Chinese was 8 oz. The first three prisoners were recognised by the deceased before he died as having been among those who assaulted him, and two or three witnesses would identify the fourth prisoner as the one who commenced the attack and was aided by the other prisoners.

Evidence was then led. For the defence it was proved that the fourth prisoner, Man Cheung, who was a kind of foreman at the works, had received general orders from the Portuguese overseer at the wharf to keep the pile-driver clear, that he and the workmen had considerable difficulty in doing this and that the deceased was one of those who crowded on to the place.

His Lordship having summed up,

The jury after an absence of three minutes in which to consider their verdict found the prisoners guilty by a majority of five to two and unanimously recommended them to mercy.

His Lordship said he quite concurred with the recommendation and would see that it was given effect to.

Mr. Morgan Phillips drew his Lordship's attention to the fact that the prisoners had been some six weeks in prison.

His Lordship in passing sentence said the evidence left the jury no option but to find them guilty of manslaughter, because it was clear that through their act they caused the death of this man. The verdict of the jury was a most proper one and one in which he entirely concurred. The evidence, he himself thought, showed that the man was in a very bad state of health from his enlarged spleen and that the prisoners did not know his condition. What they did to him would probably not have caused his death had he been in a good state of health. But men must be careful how they conduct themselves towards each other. Prisoners had been in prison for the past six weeks. Taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration he would sentence them to be confined with hard labour, until the rising of the Court.

The Court adjourned.

Tuesday, 19th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR HENRY S. BAKERLEY (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

MANSLAUGHTER BY A CHINESE CONSTABLE.
Fong Kau, a Chinese constable, was charged with having killed a man named Chung Mo Kwai at An Tau Police Station in the New Territory on 29th March.

He pleaded not guilty.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., Acting Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. F. R. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), conducted the prosecution.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. F. Smith, P. Hardman, D. H. Cameron, G. Sole, H. A. Lammert, E. W. Tilden and W. Clark.

The Acting Attorney-General in his opening statement said that on 28th March at ten o'clock at night the deceased and a woman went to the Police Station and the deceased complained of having been assaulted by the accused. Evidence would show that the man was then bleeding slightly from the head, but, as it would appear, that injury had nothing to do with his death. It was but just to the prisoner to explain now that he said that the villagers including the deceased had interfered with him that day when he was making an arrest and in the course of that interference he struck the man on the head. The constable however did not report this matter at the time to Sergeant Adlington who was in charge of the station. On the following morning Sergeant Adlington was in the charge-room when the deceased and a woman entered to make their charge, not having seen the sergeant on the previous night. Deceased was to all appearance perfectly well. The sergeant told the deceased man to wait outside a few minutes. Apparently the latter misunderstood what was said to him, for he went outside and walked away. The sergeant sent accused who was then on duty to bring him back. Prisoner followed him, overtook him and the evidence would show, without any necessity assaulted him and kicked him about the legs. This had nothing to do with the man's death, but it showed the systematic course of violence followed by the accused towards the deceased man. Prisoner brought the man back and he was put on the verandah to await an opportunity of seeing the sergeant. Here the accused made a third assault upon the prisoner. He struck him or pushed him with great violence against a window-frame on the verandah with the result that the man fell heavily to the floor and fainted. He was brought round by the sergeant but expired about an hour afterwards. A post-mortem examination showed that the cause of death was a ruptured spleen, resulting from a violent blow. The spleen of the deceased appeared to have been enlarged, he being apparently a malarial subject. His death must have been caused by the violence of the prisoner. The police must not abuse the powers given them by their position, and it was to be feared that Chinese constables when unobserved by their superiors did sometimes abuse these powers.

Evidence was called.

Lance-Sergeant Adlington deposed that on the morning of the day in question he saw the accused man push the deceased violently from behind against the window-frame on the verandah of the Police Station. Deceased fell away in a dead faint into the prisoner's arms and then on to the ground. Witness was in the charge-room at that time about six yards away. Deceased was walking along quietly, offering no provocation to the constable. Witness went out and brought the deceased man round. He complained of pains in his inside and appeared to be in great pain. Witness telephoned to Ta-po for the doctor. The man afterwards fainted again but witness brought him round, got a statement from him, and then carried him into the charge-room where he died an hour and a quarter after being pushed against the window. When deceased came into the station that morning he seemed to be in perfectly good health.

Indian Acting-Sergeant 696 gave evidence of a corroborative nature.

Dr. William Hunter, who made the post-mortem examination, deposed that he found the spleen ruptured in four or five places. A blow would have caused the injuries; the push against the window which had been described could have caused them.

By the Court—A rupture of the spleen could be caused by violent muscular exertion.

The accused when asked if he wished to make any statement said that when he told the deceased to go on the verandah the man refused and he had to use necessary violence to get him up. When the man was near the window he fell down. He (the prisoner) did not push him or assault him as alleged by the witnesses.

The jury unanimously found the prisoner

guilty as libelled but recommended him to mercy on the ground that the abnormal size of the deceased man's spleen probably contributed to his death.

His Lordship in passing sentence said he agreed with the jury. He believed that had the deceased man's spleen been of normal size the fall would not have caused his death. But this was not a case of an ordinary affray between man and man. In that case his Lordship would probably have taken the view that the term of imprisonment already undergone by the prisoner met the requirements of the case. But prisoner was a member of the Police Force; and police officers and other officers of the law having persons in custody must clearly understand that they were not entitled to use towards such persons any more violence or force than was absolutely necessary to enable them to perform their duty. In order to mark his sense of the illegality and impropriety of the prisoner's conduct as a police officer in using violence towards the deceased, he would sentence him to one month's imprisonment. Had the prisoner been an ordinary citizen he would have gone free.

THE ARSON CASE—WOMAN'S SENTENCE REDUCED.

Wong Ping who with her husband Ho Ping had been convicted at the previous day's sitting of arson at 25 Queen's Road West and sentenced to three years' imprisonment (her husband getting seven), was brought into Court.

His Lordship, addressing the Acting Attorney-General, said that since passing sentence he had had very serious doubts as to whether he had taken the right view as far as the woman was concerned. As the Acting Attorney-General knew, in cases of ordinary felony and in misdemeanours a wife if she committed the offence alleged against her in presence of her husband was in law assumed to have acted under his compulsion. But there were certain felonies such as murder and treason which were considered *malæ in se*, which were so bad in themselves that the compulsion of the husband even could not excuse the wife for taking part in them. There were those in high authority who added other crimes to the murder and treason category. He himself took the view on the previous day that the crime charged against those two persons came within that category, inasmuch as the allegation was that fire had been set to a house in which persons were then dwelling and asleep; and he thought that on the facts as disclosed before the Magistrate it would have been competent for the Crown to have charged attempted murder. He felt justified in saying that a person who set fire to a house in which persons were asleep might be charged with intent to murder those persons, and from his own point of view, following a certain school of lawyers, he would include in the category of crimes that are *malæ in se* the terrible crime of setting fire to a house in which persons were asleep. Still the question was not without doubt and had not been clearly held to be so. In the circumstances he thought he ought to, and he intended to—he would be glad if it met with the Acting Attorney-General's approbation—revise the woman's sentence by way of reducing it. He was not prepared to go to perhaps the logical conclusion and remit the sentence altogether, because if the crime with which she was charged did not authoritatively come within the category of *malæ in se* crimes, still there was a doubt. He proposed to regard this woman, therefore, as having acted under the compulsion of her husband. But it having been proved that she was present with him all the time during which the evidence concerned him at all his Lordship proposed in the circumstances to reduce the sentence from three years to six months.

The Acting Attorney-General said he agreed with his Lordship entirely.

His Lordship remarked that it gave him considerable satisfaction to hear that expression of opinion from the Acting Attorney-General as representing the Crown. Addressing the prisoner his Lordship went on to say that she and her husband had been convicted of a horrible crime. He did not intend to alter the husband's sentence of seven years, but he had had the conviction borne in upon him that she had acted under his compulsion. If the crime which they had committed together had been of a less heinous character he would have discharged the woman altogether, because one knew how

difficult for a wife it was to resist the moral suasion or compulsion of her husband. But there were some crimes so terrible that even although it was quite clear that a woman acted under such compulsion she could not be allowed to get off altogether; and this setting fire to a house was one. He reduced the sentence from three years to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

ALLEGED HIGHWAY ROBBER—A MISSING WITNESS.

In the case in which Yeung Kwai Cheung, Chung Shing, Cheng Ki Mo, Wong Tin and Li Hoi are charged with highway robbery.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., said he had been authorised to prosecute on behalf of the Acting Attorney-General. The principal witness, the prosecutor in fact, by name Lan Hoi, had however disappeared; the police had made enquiries at Kowloon City to which place he went periodically, but he had not been seen there of late. He believed the prosecutor's home was in Chinese territory. He asked his Lordship to admit as evidence the man's deposition taken at the Magistracy (Section 32 of Ordinance No. 2 of 1889).

His Lordship declined to sanction this course, but said he would fix the hearing for Friday, putting the case last on the list, to allow the Crown to bring forward this witness if possible. The Court adjourned.

Wednesday, 20th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR HENRY S. BERKELEY (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE GAGE STREET MURDER TRIAL.

Liu Chui alias Li Kwai Fan was charged with the murder of Yueing Kuo Wan, the Reformer schoolmaster, in Gage Street, on 10th January, 1901.

He pleaded not guilty.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., Acting Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), conducted the prosecution; and Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law, was for the defence.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. W. Nicholls, P. Dow, R. Saxon, J. W. Crouch, P. Hardman, J. A. T. Plummer and A. S. Anton. Foreman, Mr. Dow.

The Acting Attorney-General in opening the case said the accused was charged as being a member, in fact the leader, of a gang of four men who committed this deed in concert together. All four of these men had been for some time known to the Crown by name, but the other three unfortunately were not before the Court. They had not been caught and in all probability would never be found within the jurisdiction of this Colony so that they could be caught. The prisoner only returned to Hong-kong last month and was arrested. The circumstances of the murder were fairly notorious. Deceased lived at 52, Gage Street in a corner house fronting upon that street and Aberdeen Street. He rented the whole of the first floor consisting of a large room and two cubicles and a kitchen in the rear. The ground at the back was almost one story higher than in front. The first floor was entered by the back from a lane and was practically on a level with the lane, which debouched into Aberdeen Street by a short flight of steps. Deceased conducted a night school for the teaching of English to Chinese boys and young men. The classes commenced at six o'clock, in the large front room. On the evening in question deceased was sitting at a table in the centre of the room, reading to a class from a book. The door was on the latch for the convenience of pupils arriving late, and it was consequently easy for anybody to enter without attracting any particular attention. The wife of the deceased man, her daughter and two small children were in the cubicles at the back of the premises. About half-past six o'clock a man suddenly appeared in the class-room. He was seen for a moment by a few there but not by the deceased. This man walked a certain distance into the room fairly close up to the table and suddenly discharged three or four shots at the deceased. The shots took effect and deceased fell forward on to the table, the pupils fled in panic, and in

the confusion the man who fired the shots, along with another man who accompanied him, escaped. Deceased's wife and daughter rushed into the room, found him in a state of collapse, and called the police. When the injured man was taken to the hospital Dr. Bell found that his injuries were too serious to allow of the extraction of the bullets. He died next morning. Three bullets were found in the body and the cause of death was certified to be internal hæmorrhage. Deceased made a dying declaration implicating the Chinese Government, saying that they had offered a reward of \$20,000 for his life. One of the most interesting points about this case was that the circumstances of the crime were known evidently to a very large number of Chinese, both before and after the murder. The principal reason they remained passive was probably that they were afraid of the Chinese Government. Deceased was a member of the Reform party. He was prominently concerned in the Waichou rising in September, 1900, and for his connection with that rising he was wanted by the Chinese Government. The Acting Viceroy of Canton and Governor of Kwangtung offered a reward of \$20,000 together with official rank for the capture or assassination of the deceased man. Li Ka Chuk, the mandarin in Canton who was in charge of the military guard and had power to do anything with the police force there, took the matter up and practically organised this murder.

His Lordship—I presume you are going to prove this—that these officials publicly offered a reward for the man's apprehension or assassination?

The Acting Attorney-General—I shall prove that.

His Lordship—Because it is a very serious allegation to make against these officials.

The Acting Attorney-General—I think I will prove it to your Lordship's satisfaction.

His Lordship—You must offer evidence.

The Acting Attorney-General—Certainly, my Lord. This mandarin, he went on to say, really organised this murder, although he did not actually come to Hongkong; and some of his braves were in the gang who committed the murder. Yung Ching Kai, captain of the Chinese gunboat *Kin Yui*, came to Hongkong and acted as intermediary between the mandarin and his emissaries. Prisoner was the leader of the gang who committed the deed. He tried for some time to get assistance in the murder. Many persons had been traced who were asked and refused to act with him. He was therefore for some time trying to make up a gang. One of the persons who were asked to co-operate actually lived in the same house with the prisoner for some time and he would speak to the meetings between the Chinese officials and the hatching of the plot, he being present at some of the meetings held. This man left the house shortly before the murder. Some of those who were asked to co-operate would have been quite willing to assist in kidnapping the deceased but would not take part in murder. This man felt it was getting altogether too serious and he went away but was afraid to report the matter. Early in January of 1901 there were meetings held in Li Ka Chuk's barracks in Canton between the captain of the *Kin Yui* and officers of the mandarin, Chan Lam Tsai, Tung Chung and Tsui Fuk. The last two men were braves. These three men were engaged by Li Ka Chuk to assist the prisoner in this enterprise and with the prisoner these three men constituted the gang who carried out the purpose of this conspiracy. On the morning of 7th January these three men came from Canton to Hongkong. They joined the prisoner here and thereafter until the time of the murder they were constantly together. On the day of the murder in the late afternoon there was a meeting in the house of Ng Shui Shang alias Ng Lo Sam, a man who was one of the conspirators though not a member of the gang of four. He was banished shortly after the murder. There were present at this meeting the gang of four men including the prisoner who was the leader, also two officials from Canton—Li Ka Chuk's secretary and the captain of the *Kin Yui* and an acquaintance of Ng called Kong. At this meeting the final arrangements were made for the murder, and at the termination of that meeting the gang set out

for the house of the deceased. When they arrived in the neighbourhood of deceased's house Tsui Fuk mounted guard at the junction of Gage Street and Aberdeen Street. Prisoner and the other two men continued up Aberdeen Street as far as the back of the house and stopped at the entrance of the lane. Then prisoner reconnoitred the back of the house, and presently afterwards came down and joined his two companions at the foot of the flight of steps. There they had a short conversation, and then the other two men went up the steps and entered the house, the prisoner mounting guard at the corner so as to command Aberdeen Street and the lane at the back of the house. The shots were fired immediately after these two men entered the house. Directly the shots were fired the two men reappeared from the house and came down the steps. They were followed by a witness who knew them and they walked very quietly down Aberdeen Street as far as the Praya. There three out of the gang of four got into a sampan and went out to the Harbour. A little later on prisoner appeared across at Yaumati at a marriage-boat belonging to friends of his, to whom he told more or less of the story and asked them to put him up. They refused. The prisoner disappeared and he was not seen again. But presently afterwards the whole gang were back in Canton where they stayed in Li Ka Chuk's barracks for ten days or more, during which time the murder was very frequently discussed and the prisoner frequently referred to it, boasting that he committed the deed and claiming the reward for it. There was no secrecy preserved there about the matter. The four murderers actually received their reward and the Viceroy promoted the prisoner and two others to be mandarins of the fifth rank. In conclusion, he said the jury must leave out of consideration any sympathy which they might have with the Reform movement, if they had such a sympathy. Notwithstanding the extraordinary breach committed by the Chinese Government or officials of the fundamental principles of international rights and the intolerableness of having a foreign government's emissaries entering our territory for the purpose of murdering somebody who was under the protection of our flag but was obnoxious to that foreign government, it was conceivable that the Chinese officials who organised this affair were actuated by patriotic motives. He did not know they were, but it was perfectly possible. But that had nothing to do with the motives of this gang of murderers who were actuated by no spirit of unselfishness and patriotism but by the meanest and most sordid motives of money to be gained. As regards the law in the matter, his Lordship would tell them that in the case of murder by a gang, although only one man might actually inflict the fatal injury, they were all alike liable for the crime.

E. W. Carpenter, P.W.D., was the first witness. He put in and proved plans of the house 52, Gage Street.

The wife of the murdered man next gave evidence. When she heard the report of firearms, she said, she came out from the cubicle where she had been lying on the bed, and met all the pupils running out. When she went into the front room she found her husband leaning forward with his head on his hands. He was bleeding. The lamp on the table at which he sat was extinguished; it had been burning before the murder. There was another lamp on a side-table; it was alight. With the assistance of her daughter she laid her husband upon a bed. When she asked him what had happened he said he had been shot at the instigation of the Chinese Government.

A young Chinese who was a student of the deceased and who was in the room when the murder was committed gave evidence as to the deed.

Cross-examined—There was no other stranger in the room but the man who fired the shots. Prisoner was not there.

After other witnesses had given evidence, Dr. Bell went into the box. He described the man's condition when brought into hospital and spoke to the dying deposition made by the deceased and written down by witness at the time. Deceased's deposition was to the effect that he was teaching at the English school in his house when very quietly the murderer came in and shot him four times. He did not know

the man. The Chinese Government had sent the man down from Canton and "everything to be done." He hoped the English Government would do him justice. This happened about half-past seven. A man named Kwong had come to his house two months ago and told him that Ng Shui Shang had gone up to Canton to make arrangements with Tung Fan Toi and asked him to make a design of murder on deceased; if the business succeeded it would be \$20,000.

Tam Chung, a Yaumati fisherman, said he made the acquaintance of the prisoner on his uncle's marriage-boat at Yaumati in April, 1900. About July or August of that year he again saw him on that boat. Prisoner said he had come down to look for some business but did not say where from; he stayed on the boat for four or five days and then came over to this side and took a house in a lane off Hollywood Road. Witness went to live with him in the capacity of a cook. He left on the 5th January, 1901. He had pointed out this house to Sergeant Sullivan. During the time he lived with prisoner he remembered a pilot from the *Kin Yui* coming to the house. On one occasion he heard the pilot telling the prisoner he understood there was a man named Yeung Kue Wan living in Hongkong and asking what was his occupation. Li Ka Chuk of the Chinese Government, he said, offered a reward of between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to anyone who would kill him and also to give several buttons; could the prisoner get some one to kill him? Prisoner said that if there was a reward he would get some one to kill the deceased. Prisoner asked the pilot to stay for dinner. The pilot not only did so but stayed for several days. Prisoner asked witness to assist him to beat Yeung Kue Wan. Witness said he had some classmates trading in this Colony and it would be very difficult to secure his services. He flatly refused. There were six men living in the house. All of these co-sented to join the prisoner. He heard the people discussing what they were to do with the deceased; prisoner suggested that he and two others should go down the street, keep a watch on Yeung Kue Wan, and, if he went to a house where there were only a few people present, shoot him; if there were many people they were not to shoot him. Witness left the prisoner's house on 5th January because he was afraid of being implicated. He went back to his uncle's boat. He called at the prisoner's house on the 9th, on which occasion Lam Tsai and a man named A Tung were there. In the presence of these two, prisoner said the previous gang were afraid to do anything, they had no pluck; so he got these two men from Canton. Witness next saw prisoner about eight o'clock at night on the 10th on his uncle's boat at Yaumati, where prisoner arrived by a sampan, alone. Prisoner asked to be allowed to stay for the night. Witness's uncle asked where he had been and what he had done. Prisoner replied that he had killed Yeung Kue Wan. His uncle refused to take him in. Prisoner then asked for a blanket but did not get it, and at last went ashore in a sampan to Yaumati. Witness next met the prisoner towards the end of the year in Canton, some time in February. The *Kin Yui* was a Chinese gunboat, and Yeung Ching Kai the name of the captain, who was under Li Ka Chuk, the military governor of Canton. On this occasion rewards in the shape of buttons were mentioned, and the prisoner said to witness: "You are a coward, otherwise you would have plenty of money to spend and a button to wear." Prisoner said also that he had received only a few hundred dollars of the reward so far, and a button—a crystal one of the fifth rank. When witness was living with him the prisoner was buttonless. He asked the prisoner to lend him a few dollars, as the New Year was approaching but he said he had not a cash left.

Cross-examined—Witness was a fisherman, and had his own boat in Yaumati. He gave up cooking in January, 1901, before which date he had never been a fisherman. His uncle gave him the boat. Witness had a brother named Tam Tai who visited the house where he was cooking for the prisoner, but witness knew nothing about his antecedents, nor whether he was hiding from the police in consequence of

stolen goods being found on the uncle's boat. Witness's wages as cook were three dollars a month. He had been the pilot of the *Kia Yui* before the latter came to the prisoner's house, but had never spoken to him; the pilot did not know him. When the conversation was going on about the shooting of Yeung Kue Wan witness was in the same room, and heard everything.

Mr. Morgan Phillips asked the witness to repeat in Chinese, without stopping, what the pilot said, and this he did. Interpreted, it was to the effect that there was a reward of about \$10,000 and several buttons offered for Yeung Kue Wan.

Cross-examination continued—The pilot did not ask the witness to leave the room when he was discussing the project, in which the accused asked him to participate. His reason for not joining in it was that he was too busy with the cooking, and he did not make a report to the police because prisoner threatened to kill him if he did. When the prisoner visited the uncle's boat on the night of the 10th January, he said right away that he had shot Yeung Kue Wan dead. He afterwards went ashore, but witness's uncle, who still kept a marriage-boat at Yau-mati, did not follow him and report to the police, as he was afraid of the prisoner. Witness went to Canton in February to obtain a loan from the prisoner, who had borrowed a couple of dollars out of \$6 paid to witness as wages. Prisoner refused to lend him money, but it was not on that account that witness was giving evidence against him. Witness never gave information to the police; the police came to look for him on or about 10th or 11th April this year. He felt bound to tell the police what he knew, and also felt safe in doing so, although he was afraid to go out on dark nights now.

Re-examined—The prisoner was arrested long before the police came to see him.

Chan Wan, examined by Mr. Sharp, said he was employed at present as a cook on board the *Zafiro*. He knew the prisoner, who was nicknamed "Sow" ("jutting teeth") by reason of the peculiar formation of his teeth. Witness's brother Chan Lam Tsai was a member of the gang, and was executed because two letters were found in his possession by Li Ka Chuk. Witness had seen and read the letters, which did not relate to the murder directly, simply asking his brother to come down to Hongkong from Canton, as the Government of Hongkong wanted him. One of the letters was sent by "Mui" (the Chinese for Mr. May, then Captain Superintendent of Police). Witness was present at the execution of his brother, whose head was cut off on the Honam side of Canton. He remembered the murder of Yeung Kue Wan, and during the few months preceding it witness was living at Canton with his brother, who rented the house and lived in it, with his family. His brother was a soldier and a gambler—a soldier when times were busy and a gambler when they were slack. Li Ka Chuk, the mandarin, was the head of the Chuk regiment. Ko Ping Shan, whom witness knew, was one of Chuk's soldiers. He called at witness's brother's house on 6th January, 1901, and the two—the brother and Ko Ping Shan—had a conversation, after which they went to Li Ka Chuk's barracks. When he came back he had a conversation with Tung Cheung, the other man living in the house, and very early next morning all three—witness, his brother, and Tung Cheung—went to Chuk's barracks. Witness remained outside but the other two went in and later on sent for him. When he entered he saw the captain of the *Kia Yui* and the other two besides one of Li Ka Chuk's braves and a fourth member of the gang named Tsui. Witness was not included in the interview between the captain of the *Kia Yui* and the other four, but when it was ended these latter went to catch the morning boat to Hongkong. Witness did not go to Hongkong. On the afternoon of 10th January he saw the brave again, four days later his brother, and after that Tsui. These three and the prisoner with others were living in Li Ka Chuk's barracks for about ten days.

The hearing was adjourned at this point, and his Lordship directed that the jury were to be looked up for the night. Accommodation would be found for them in the Hongkong

Hotel, and they would be under the charge of the usher.

The Court rose.

A PRECEDENT.

Although the course adopted by the Acting Chief Justice in ordering the jury to be locked up for the night is one which has not been followed for many years, the Court records show that a similar thing happened in 1863, when Sir John Smale was Chief Justice. In Mr. J. W. Norton Kyshe's *History of the Laws and Courts of Hongkong*, Vol. II, p. 140 we find the following interesting parallel:—

"The first instance also of a jury being detained in custody overnight happened upon 26th February, 1868, in the case *R. v. Lee a Tai and Koong a Fook*, charged with making a murderous attack. At a few minutes before seven, the Chief Justice remarked that as the case could not be finished that night it would be desirable that the jury should be locked up. Mr. Whyte said he was quite willing on behalf of the prisoners that the jury should be allowed to leave. His Lordship remarked that he had not the power to allow the jury to leave. According to Sections 22 and 23 of Ordinance 11 of 1861 he was bound to have them kept in charge of an officer until the case was finished. As to Mr. Whyte consenting to their going away he would remark that by a late decision it was held that a prisoner could consent to nothing (*R. v. Bertrand*, 1 *Law Reports*, P.C., 520). He was very sorry that the law should put such an inconvenience on a jury but he could only obey the law; and the Court was accordingly adjourned until next morning and the jury removed to the Hotel de l'Europe."

From the *Daily Press* of 27th February, 1863, we find that the jury was as follows:—Messrs. L. P. Ward, J. Parsons, J. da Silveira, G. Agabeg, P. Macvicar, J. E. Manger and E. Erdman.

The chronicler relates that

"The countenances of the jury fell considerably when they heard this discussion going on as to their probable fate for the night, and when it was finally announced to them that they could not be out of the custody of the Court they appeared to feel decidedly uncomfortable."

"Mr. Whyte said he did not know where the jury could be kept. Certainly not in the Court, and he thought the goal was the most comfortable place."

"At a few minutes before seven, Mr. Whyte concluded the evidence of A Choe, and the Court was accordingly adjourned until this morning, and the jury were removed to the Hotel d'Europe."

Thursday, 21st May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR HENRY S. BERKELEY (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE GAGE STREET MURDER TRIAL—SENTENCE OF DEATH.

The trial was continued of Lui Chui alias Li Kwai Fan who was charged with the murder of a Reformer schoolmaster at 52, Gage Street on 10th January, 1901.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., Acting Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), conducted the prosecution; and Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law, was for the defence.

Chan Wan, who had been under examination when the Court rose on the previous night, was again put in the witness-box. He said he met the gang in Canton after the murder. Witness's elder brother, Lam Tsai, now deceased, stated that he entered the house first and did the actual shooting. Tung Chung accompanied him. Tsui Fuk and the prisoner remained outside. Three of the gang received the greater part of the money reward; these were the prisoner, who got \$2,000; Lam Tsai \$2,000; and Tung Chung \$2,000. He did not know what the other man received. These three also got buttons of the fifth rank, along with about twenty others. Witness saw two of the diplomas of rank, one in the possession of his elder brother Lam Tsai and one in the possession of Tung Chung. He produced and identified

the patent which belonged to his elder brother; it bore the date 30th January, 1901. The patent was sealed with the viceregal seal of Viceroy Tak. It stated that Chan Tai On (the official name of Chan Lam Tsai) had exerted himself in the arrest of the leader of the Ko-lo Society and other members of secret societies and great credit was due to him. His brother Lam Tsai showed him the patent of his rank when he received it. Long before he got it he told the witness that he was going to get it for the shooting of the reformer Yeung Kue Wan. After his brother showed him the diploma they went and worshipped joss to give thanks for the receipt of the diploma. After reading through the document, witness asked his brother what the words, Ching Lung Tai meant, and his brother told him that these words meant 'chief leader of the rebellion' and referred to the deceased Yeung Kue Wan. His brother had not been concerned in the arrest or assassination of any other revolutionary but Yeung Kue Wan. He got special instructions to carry out this murder. After his brother's death, witness got possession of his brother's papers including the diploma, through his sister-in-law. After his brother got his rank he was put in charge of a war-junk and was in that position up till the time of his death. After he stayed with the gang in Li Ka Chuk's barracks he next saw the prisoner between 19th February and 19th March at a place called Pun Pu near Canton; prisoner was then wearing a button of the fifth rank and was on board the flagship looking after odds and ends. Prisoner afterwards went home to his sweetheart in his country. Witness next saw him in his (witness's) house in Canton about 23rd August. About the same time he saw the prisoner on board his brother's junk. His brother was executed on 25th September, 1901. Subsequently he did not see the prisoner until after his arrest. Prisoner bought a wife at this time.

Cross-examined—Before the death of Yeung Kue Wan prisoner was unknown to him. Prisoner was not present at the house of his brother and at Li Ka Chuk's barracks in Canton. It was Li Ka Chuk who instructed his brother to carry out the murder. He first saw prisoner at the barracks after the death of Yeung Kue Wan. Witness's brother said in the barracks that the prisoner ran away when he heard the shots.

Re-examined—He did not see the order for payment of the \$2,000 to the prisoner; he saw the orders for the payment of \$2,000 each to his brother and Tung Chung.

Kong Ngau Ying, a fishmonger from Yau-mati, deposed that he first met the prisoner on 8th January, 1901, at West Point with Lam Tsai and others. There they went into a brothel. He knew Lam Tsai. Afterwards he learned that two of the others along with the prisoner were Tung Chung and Tsui Fuk. He saw prisoner again on 10th January at West Point in the Street; long with him were Chan Lam Tsai, Tung Chung and Tsui Fuk. They took witness to a eating-house. After that they went to the house of Ng Lo Sam, whom he had known between ten and twenty years. Li Chi Tin, secretary to Li Ka Chuk, was there; also a man named Yeung Ching Kai, captain of the *Kia Yui*. Li Chi Tin asked him whether he wished to go or not. Witness asked "Go where?" Li Chi Tin replied "To go to shoot Yeung Kue Wan." Witness said he was not going. Prisoner and the others were all present. Li Chi Tin then said "Why don't you go? there is a reward of between \$10,000 and \$20,000 and you will get an appointment as a mandarin"; adding that the reward would come from Viceroy Tak. Li Chi Tin explained that Yeung Kue Wan was the "emperor" of the Waichou rebellion. The others agreed to go, namely, the prisoner, Lam Tsai, Tsui Fuk and Tung Chung. The gang then left the house. Witness followed them up Gough Street and Aberdeen Street. Tsui Fuk stood in front of Yeung Kue Wan's house at the corner of Aberdeen Street and Gage Street, and remained there throughout the proceedings. The prisoner walked ahead of Lam Tsai and went up the flight of stone steps at the back of the house entering on the lane. Lam Tsai and Tung Chung walked towards the stone steps and at the bottom of the steps prisoner came down. They appeared to be talking. Then

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Oberland Trade Report.

VOL. LVII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 23RD MAY, 1903.

No. 21

Annual Report of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

The report of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, for the year ending 31st December last, for presentation to the members at the annual meeting fixed for to-morrow, is as follows:—

A great variety of subjects have engaged the attention of your Committee during the past year with satisfactory results in most cases.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO EMPLOYEES AND SERVANTS.

It was brought to the notice of the Committee in June last that under the then existing law there were no effectual regulations to stop the increasing practice of Chinese employees leaving their employment without notice, thereby causing loss and inconvenience to the employer against whom it was easy for an employee to recover damages for a similar fault on the master's part. Representations were made to the Government with a view to remedial legislation being enacted, and the Committee are of opinion that the Employers and Servants Ordinance, No. 45 of 1902, will go far to meet the evil complained of.

ABSCONDING CHINESE DEBTORS.

A case of considerable importance to Hongkong's trade with China was brought to the notice of the Committee by Messrs. Mounsey & Brutton, solicitors. It appears that the Wo Shang firm of Canton were in the habit of repairing to Hongkong and buying goods on credit from Fuk Tai firm of Hongkong amongst others, which debts were not paid, and that the office of the debtors in Hongkong was closed and the person in charge went to Canton after demand for the debt had been made, but before the issue of the writ of summons. The debt was admitted and judgment was obtained for \$5,353.61 in the Supreme Court here.

The plaintiff's solicitors requested H.B.M.'s Consul-General in Canton to act in concert with the Chinese authorities in Canton to enable the judgment debt to be satisfied. The Consul-General was, however, of opinion that this was not a case of "absconding" as defined by Article 3 of the Tientsin Treaty, and advised an action being taken by plaintiffs in person in the Chinese Courts.

Article 23 above referred to reads as follows:—

"Should natives of China who may repair to Hongkong to trade incur debts there, the recovery of such debts must be arranged for by the English Court of Justice on the spot; but should the Chinese debtor abscond, and be known to have property real or personal within the Chinese territory, it shall be the duty of the Chinese authorities on application by, and in concert with, the British Consul, to do their utmost to see justice done between the parties."

The defendants had property in Canton

and, through their absconding, the judgment of the Hongkong Court was set at defiance. The Committee advised the plaintiffs to represent the matter to the Government and they were informed that His Excellency the Governor could not see his way to take any action in the matter as suggested.

The Committee do not agree with the decision of Mr. Consul-General Scott, and they may decide later to represent the matter to H.M.'s Minister at Peking.

DISINFECTION OF VESSELS AND DESTRUCTION OF RATS BY CLAYTON'S PROCESS.

Rats Ordinance, 1902.

The Government requested the opinion of the Chamber as to the desirability of using Clayton's process of pumping SO₂ gas into the holds of ships for the destruction of rats.

Your Committee were adverse to the employment of this process on the ground that the use of the apparatus would involve the detention of steamers and consequent heavy expense, and also because in most cases vessels calling here usually have large quantities of cargo on board for ports beyond Hongkong, and it would not, therefore, be practicable.

The Government drew the attention of the Chamber to the regulations drawn under section 3 of the Rats Ordinance of 1902 with a view to the shipping interests of the port being fully informed on the subject. These regulations are to be found on page 334 of the *Gazette* of the 15th March, 1902, and apply to all ships not propelled by oars except junks and lorchaes not propelled by steam. There are also provisions to prevent rats from entering buildings to which the attention of property owners is drawn.

REGISTRATION OF JUNKS UNDER FOREIGN FLAGS TO EVADE PAYMENT OF "CHING-FEI" LEVIED BY VICEROY OF THE TWO KWANG.

The attention of the Government was drawn to the fact that junk owners were evading payment of this tax to the Imperial Maritime Customs at the Taishan Custom House at the entrance to the Canton River by resorting to the protection of foreign flags and producing documents stamped with the seal of the German and American Consuls authorising their respective flags to be used, and in virtue thereof evade the tax in question. It was pointed out that British merchants and traders were precluded by the Shipping Regulations from attempting to make use of the British flag for the same purpose, and that it was a scandal that foreign merchants enjoying the hospitality of the Colony should so abuse it as to use their flag as a means whereby to secure an unlawful advantage over their competitors in business. The Government agreed with the opinion expressed by the Committee, and there is reason to believe that means have been adopted to discourage the practice complained of.

INCREASE OF TAXATION ON OPIUM AT CANTON.

A very serious attempt on the part of the Chinese authorities at Canton and Swatow was made to put a further heavy tax on opium in addition to those already provided for by the Chefoo Convention. An office for the collection of the new tax of Tls. 115.90 per chest was opened in Canton on 5th July last, the effect of which was to stop shipments in transit and all imports of the foreign drug for some time. A similar state of affairs existed at Swatow.

Your Committee took energetic measures to protest against this exaction, which would have fallen almost entirely on the imported opium as, although the extra duty was to be payable both on the native and imported article, the former would escape much of the duty, as at present happens. It was pointed out to H.B.M.'s Minister at Peking that smuggling would certainly be again resorted to in view of the greatly enhanced cost of the article, and the proposal to double the imports on foreign opium was a poor return for the consideration shown by the British Government to China in helping her to collect the opium taxes. It was suggested that the provincial share of the indemnity due to the Foreign Powers might easily be met by increasing the duty on the native product, and, by strictly enforcing the same, a large revenue would be assured and a vast contraband trade brought under control.

This matter was referred to the Home Authorities, and in December last, after negotiations extending over seven months, the final abolition of the new tax was accomplished. The Committee desire to place on record their appreciation of the energetic manner in which Sir Ernest Satow and Mr. Consul-General Scott brought this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

PROPOSED FAST ATLANTIC SERVICE BY THE C. P. R. CO.

It came to the knowledge of the Committee in September last that negotiations were pending between the C. P. R. Co. and the Imperial and Dominion Governments, with a view to the inauguration of a fast Atlantic Service which, if successful, would in all probability be followed by a faster train service across Canada and quicker steamers to the Far East. As this proposal would have the effect of reducing the delivery of the mail from London, via Canada, to about 25 days, the following resolution was passed and forwarded to the Government for transmission to the proper authorities:—

"That this Chamber strongly endorses the necessity for a fast and reliable Atlantic service being inaugurated in connection with the present excellent service between China, Japan and Canada, and being of opinion, judging by the regularity, despatch

and reliability of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s present Pacific service, that an equally satisfactory Atlantic service would be provided on the improved conditions stated above, hereby recommends that the contract for such mail and passenger service be accordingly entrusted to the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., and that a copy of this resolution be mailed to the Postmaster General at London, England, and Ottawa, Canada."

FRENCH TARIFF AND HONGKONG PRODUCE.

Since 1800 further correspondence has taken place during the year, and it is satisfactory to notice that this Colony has been placed in the same footing in this respect with the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States as the result of further negotiations between the Home Governments.

CHINESE EMIGRATION ORDINANCE, 1901.

The Chinese boarding-house keepers petitioned the Government in July last against the onerous conditions contained in this Ordinance, and sought the assistance of the Chamber on the ground that the shipping interests of the Colony might suffer through the probable driving away of the coolie emigration business to neighbouring ports. The Committee did not think it advisable to protest against the clauses of the Ordinance regulating the amount of the security to be found by the holders of boarding-house licences, but agreed to represent to the Government the advisability of curtailing the 48 hours during which emigrants were obliged to remain in the boarding-houses, more especially as regards male emigrants over 18 years of age. The Government were approached on the subject, and it was suggested that the time should be reduced to 24 hours. However, the Government would not agree to this suggestion and the Committee were surprised to learn that the petitioners had intimated that they no longer desired the curtailment of the 48 hours rule laid down in the Ordinance.

COLLISIONS BETWEEN JUNKS AND STEAMERS.

In 1901 representations were made to the Government on the subject of regulating sailing craft in the harbour in order to prevent the dangerous custom of sailing craft crossing the bows of steamers. Endeavours were made to get a similar regulation in Hongkong to that enforced at Singapore, but without success. However, in 1902 this subject was pursued and met with better success at the hands of the Government, the result being the passing of the Junks (Collision) Ordinance, No. 39 of 1903, which practically places junks and steamers, on the high seas only, on account of the necessary expense entailed on the same footing, between sunset and sunrise, as regards lights. The Committee regard this Ordinance as merely a step in advance, and further representations are to be made with the object of endeavouring to put a stop to the speculative actions brought by owners of junks for excessive collision damages, in the hope that on account of the necessary expense entailed on the defendant steamship owner in order to successfully defend the action in the Hongkong Courts, he (the steamship owner) will prefer to settle the matter out of Court. The Committee consider that it is only reasonable to require the plaintiff to bring his action within a reasonable time after the collision and to furnish security for defendant's costs unless able to produce evidence that he is resident in the Colony and possessed of property within the jurisdiction of the Court.

CABLE RATES.

The hope entertained in the last report that the reductions in the rates between Europe and India, and the Straits might be extended to the Far East has not been realised, but on the contrary the drop in exchange has enabled the Joint Telegraph Administration to increase the rates payable in Hongkong by 25 per cent. The chairman's remark at the last annual meeting that the unfair discrimination between India and the Far East (regarding reduced tariffs) is probably due to the influence of the Great Northern Company, was taken exception to by the Cable Companies, who maintain that this is not correct and that, as the reduction of the tariff is dependent on the co-operation of so many different administrations, it cannot be

arranged before the International Telegraph Conference in London in May, 1903. Through the influence of Lord Curzon, the Cable Companies were obliged to reduce the tariff to India in 1902, and it was pointed out to them that if they desired to extend the reduced rates to the Far East, the difficulties in the way could be easily overcome.

The report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Cable Communications stated that, with the exception of those to the Gold Coast and Nigeria, existing rates were not excessive, but in view of the reduction in the Indian rates after its issue, your Committee addressed the London Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the reduction of rates, and the manner in which the monopoly enjoyed in Hongkong by the Joint Telegraph Administration had been brought about, with the idea of obtaining some remedy of the position of affairs by strong representations of that Chamber in the proper quarters.

The Committee hope that their representation will not be without effect at the forthcoming Conference in May next.

CONNECTION OF HONGKONG AND SWATOW BY CABLE.

An application having been made by the Swatow merchants to the E. E. A. & C. T. Co., Ltd., to connect Swatow with Hongkong by cable, the Committee were asked to represent the advisability of the proposal to H. B. M.'s Minister at Peking with a view to the consent of the Chinese Government being obtained. The Committee recognised the advisability of the proposed connection, and replied that, on information being received that the Telegraph Company concerned was prepared to entertain the matter, representations of a favourable nature would be made to the proper authorities on the understanding that further exclusive landing rights in this Colony were not sought for.

METRIC SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

In answer to an enquiry from the Government, emanating from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a reply was sent that the compulsory adoption of the Metric System of Weights and Measures throughout the Empire had the strong support of this Chamber and that, as the Metric System was understood and largely in use in this Colony, comparatively little difficulty would be found in adopting such a change in Hongkong.

MERCHANT SHIPPING AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1901.

Notice was received in September last that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had received the Memorial from the Shipping Firms and Agencies dated 7th November, 1901, praying for the amendment of the clauses so as to limit the liability of owners and agents of vessels in respect of such costs and expenses of persons taken ill on board to those on the ship's articles, but that he saw no reason for complying with the request of the signatories. The Committee regret this decision and have taken steps to warn the principal Chambers of Commerce in Great Britain so that they may be put on guard against any similar innovation being proposed in the Home legislature.

OBSTRUCTIONS IN THE CANTON RIVER.

One important result of the Chamber's representations to H. B. M.'s Minister at Peking and Sir James L. Mackay has been the inclusion of clause V in the new British Commercial Treaty with China under which the Chinese Government undertakes to remove within the next two years the artificial obstructions in the Canton River. Perhaps it is yet early for any start being made in this direction, and it may be necessary to keep this from becoming a dead letter.

POSTAL GRIEVANCES.

The Committee have been instrumental, at the instigation of the Amoy Chamber, in obtaining the ready consent of the Postmaster-General to grant greater facilities for posting late correspondence the previous night in order that it may leave by the steamers sailing at daylight. The Postmaster-General also agreed to revert to the former hours of closing the mail for printed papers and books for the Homeward Packets.

PROPOSED DIRECT PARCEL POST EXCHANGE BETWEEN HONGKONG AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

As the Home Authorities have recently been able to establish a parcel post exchange with the United States of America which enabled parcels to be sent from Hongkong to the latter country, via London, joint representations were made by this Chamber, and that of Amoy to the Hongkong Government with a view to a direct service, thereby reducing the time entailed in transit. The Hongkong Government have recommended that the Foreign Office in London should negotiate a convention with the Government of the United States of America for this purpose, and the Committee have hopes that this may be accomplished before long.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS BILL.

This measure which has been introduced as the result of the reports of the experts—Professor Simpson and Mr. O. Chadwick, sent out by the Home Government to investigate the sanitary condition of the Colony—should have an important bearing on the well-being of the Colony in the future. It is too soon to say that benefits to any extent have been derived from its enactment. Plague was not, however, so rampant in 1902, but this was, no doubt, due to the energetic cleansing work done by the Sanitary Board and also to the better climatic conditions prevailing in the spring. It is a matter for regret that the plague returns are not of so satisfactory a nature so far this spring. Whilst the Bill was passing through its early stages on the Legislative Council, the Committee were approached by the European property owners who sought the support of the Chamber to their petition against the Bill as it then stood, on the ground that proper measures were not incorporated in the Bill relating to compensation to owners who would, under its provisions, have had to make alterations to their properties, and the following resolution was passed by the Committee:—

"While recording their entire sympathy with the objects of the Public Health and Buildings Bill, which is admittedly introduced for the benefit of the Colony at large, yet on grounds of equity this Chamber decides to support the principal of fair compensation being given to Crown lessees, in cases where buildings (having been erected under Government sanction and in compliance with the requirements of then existing Ordinances) will be affected by the proposed legislation."

The Government afterwards met the objections to the original Bill in a more magnanimous spirit with the result that the final measure had the full support of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, and a very valuable Ordinance was quickly placed on the Statute Book.

THE CHAMBERS' REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead having obtained leave of absence in June last, the Officer Administering the Government invited the Chamber to select another member. Mr. Robert Shewan, of Shewan, Tomes & Co., was selected at the special meeting held on 5th June last, defeating Mr. R. C. Wilcox, of Messrs. Turner & Co. by 53 votes to 36.

The Committee could not allow Mr. Whitehead's severance with the Chamber to pass without comment, and at the monthly meeting of the 13th July last, the following resolution was passed and afterwards communicated to him:—

"That this Committee hereby records its high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. T. H. Whitehead throughout the long period from 1890 to the present time, during which he represented the Chamber of Commerce on the Legislative Council of Hongkong, and expresses its profound regret at the loss sustained by the Chamber through his departure from the Colony."

Mr. Whitehead's second period of office having expired on 24th September last, Mr. Robert Shewan was elected without opposition for a period of six years at a special meeting held on the 3rd October, 1902.

SCARCITY OF WATER AT SINGAPORE.

The fact of the unusual occurrence at the

Southern port was thoughtfully wired up by the Singapore Chamber, and the information immediately conveyed to the agents of the steamer on the point of leaving for the South, who appreciated and made use of the information. In one case a steamer profitably carried down several hundred tons of fresh water for use at Singapore.

SUGAR BOUNTIES AND CANE SUGAR.

The Committee were not able to see their way to help the West Indies by representations to the Home Government with reference to the sugar industry in those Islands, further than to express their sympathy in the efforts made by them to maintain the cane sugar industry. Since then, however, the Sugar Conference at Brussels agreed to a Convention suppressing the direct and indirect bounties by which the production of sugar might be benefited. This Convention comes into force on 1st September next, and there is no reason to doubt that its beneficial effects will not be felt by the sugar industry in this Colony.

LEKIN AND BATTERY TAX ON YARNS IMPORTED INTO CANTON BY BRITISH STEAMERS.

The attempt of the Canton authorities to impose an additional tax of 5% on yarn imports by steamer to Canton was happily frustrated, but not without some trouble and disturbance to the trade. Strong representations were made against this breach of the Treaties to H. B. M.'s Consul-General at Canton, and through his energetic efforts a new proclamation was issued by the Viceroy cancelling the old one and stating that steamer-imported foreign goods after having paid full import duty were free from *lekin* within the Port area irrespective of the nationality of the importer.

LICENSING OF PILOTS.

Probably in no other port in the world of any magnitude are unlicensed persons allowed to offer themselves as pilots, and when the opportunity is given to form themselves into a recognised body, it is usually eagerly embraced. In this case the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., approached the Chamber with the object of inducing the Government to oblige the pilots to register themselves with, and prove their qualifications before, a Board having the requisite authority from the Government to act.

Representations were made to the Government to this effect and stress was laid on the fact that the pilots of to-day are of inferior calibre to their predecessors, and that there was a growing tendency amongst them to disregard and wilfully ignore ordinary precautions necessary, not only for the safety of the vessels in their charge whilst under way in narrow waters, but of others either at anchor or at the wharves.

At the request of the Government a scheme for holding Government examinations and granting certificates was drawn up by the Sub-Committee appointed (Messrs. E. A. Hewett, A. Haupt and W. Poite), endorsed by the General Committee and forwarded to the Government, which replied at some length to the effect that it would place the Harbour Master in an entirely false position if he had to give certificates for qualification which such officer cannot test. The Committee in a further report, replied that at Home and other Asiatic ports this was satisfactorily managed and that, if necessary, the Licensing Board need not be entirely composed of Government officials but might be supplemented by outside experts.

It was pointed out that, whilst there was a demand for pilotage in the Harbour, the Committee were against the institution of compulsory pilotage, also that the granting or refusing to grant a certificate as suggested by the Government could not be acted on by private individuals without pecuniary responsibility, to which the Government would not be liable.

The Committee regret that although the chief shipping firms and agencies in the port were in favour of the scheme the Government were unable to accede to their request.

STOWAWAYS TO THE PHILIPPINES.

A fraud on a large scale was perpetrated on the China Navigation Co., Ltd., last spring when 133 Chinese were shipped to Manila in the s.s. *Kaifong* from Hongkong by the connivance of the native crew without the know-

ledge of the agents and European officers. Fortunately their presence was discovered before the vessel's arrival at Manila and the fact reported by the captain to the American Authorities, otherwise a very heavy fine would have been imposed. The stowing away of so many Chinese had been accomplished by the stevedores leaving open spaces in the cargo, thereby constructing rooms in the between decks which were filled with men in the night time whilst the European officers were asleep. An enormous amount of trouble ensued, besides expense and delay to the steamer, in addition to which a bond for \$70,000 (gold) had to be given to secure the re-conveyance of the stowaways back to Hongkong. It was represented to the Government that the penalties under the law then in force were not sufficient to deter organised attempts, of which that on the s.s. *Kaifong* was one of the most daring examples, to smuggle Chinese into the Philippines and that it was desirable to punish by imprisonment in addition to a fine not only the native crew but the stevedores, coolie brokers and the bigger men behind the latter who organised this class of business. The Government were adverse to increase the penalties imposed by law on stowaways and aiders and abettors until it was shown that the abuse continued after an example had been made of the officers through whose neglect stowaways were carried. It was proved to the Government that all reasonable precautions were taken by the European officers, and that where negligence was suspected dismissal followed, but the Authorities would not move in the matter.

In September last, the general managers of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., brought to the notice of the Chamber the fact that the compradors of their s.s. *Loong-sang* had been placed on trial for an attempt to smuggle five Chinese into Manila, but notwithstanding the gravity of the charge, he was allowed bail in \$1,500 despite a protest from their solicitors. The profitable value of this illicit trade may be gathered from the fact that the prisoner preferred to pay this large sum than stand for trial, and the fines imposed on the stowaways were promptly paid. In this case also it was shown that every precaution had been taken to prevent the carriage of stowaways and that the trouble, expense and loss of time entailed was a very heavy tax on the owners of steamers engaged on the Manila run through this smuggling continually taking place which would not occur if the Hongkong Government made the penalty imposed by law fit the crime.

After negotiations with American Authorities at Manila, which were apparently not successful, with a view to measures being adopted there to save shipowners from being fined for unwillingly carrying stowaways, the Government finally agreed to bring in "The Stowaways Ordinance, 1903" increasing the penalty to \$1,000 and imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding nine months. This may be considered a reasonable penalty, and if enforced should be sufficient to counteract the exceptional temptations to introduce Chinese into the Philippines.

PIRACY ON THE WEST RIVER.

The brutal murder of an Englishman in November last during a piratical attack on the junk on which he was travelling between Canton and Hongkong, gave the Committee another opportunity of pressing on the Government the obligation on the part of the Chinese Authorities to institute and keep up a proper patrol of the waters of the Delta. The Government replied that the matter had received attention and arrangements were being made to institute a patrol with two Chinese gunboats under European command.

It is hardly likely that this small patrol will be anything like sufficient to cope with the numerous pirate craft infesting so great an area, and the disturbed condition of the Kwangsi Province, which is partly due to the failure of the rice crop, has not tended to help matters since.

It is satisfactory to note that adequate damages were, through the vigorous action of Mr. Scott, the British Consul, obtained from

the Chinese Authorities for the benefit of the family of the murdered Englishman.

OFFICIAL CODE VOCABULARY.

Further representations were made during the year objecting to the compulsory adoption of the Vocabulary by the International Telegraph Administration on similar lines to those made in past years.

QUESTION OF DATING AND SIGNING.

BILLS OF LADING.

In answer to enquiries from the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce under this heading, a reply was sent in similar terms to those made to the General Produce Brokers' Association of London, contained in the 1897 Report.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

The resolution passed at the special general meeting on 18th February, 1903, was forwarded to the Government and a communication was received stating that the question would be referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for his consideration.

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES FOR TRAFFIC ON THE WEST RIVER.

Chiefly in order to put a stop to the numerous piratical attacks on native passenger boats on the West River, the Viceroy of the Two Kwang was influenced to look with more favour on the benefits which would accrue in this respect from the increased use of passenger steamers, and the Steamship Companies interested sought the aid of the Chamber in furthering the project. The Government and Sir Ernest Satow were immediately communicated with in order to obtain the consent of the Chinese Imperial Authorities, and the latter agreeing, has resulted in several additional ports on the West River being opened to foreign trade for the first time. This may be regarded as a great advance in the attempt to properly open the inland waters of China to steamer traffic.

PREFERENTIAL DUTIES.

The Committee have pleasure in stating that the result of the transfer of the Native Customs at Canton to the Imperial Maritime Customs early in 1902, alluded to in the 1901 Report, has terminated the charging of lower duties on junk-borne cargo, and native shippers have accordingly again reverted to shipping their chief articles of commerce by steamer. Already the benefit to foreign shipping on the Canton River run has been very noticeable and still better results should follow.

TYPHOON WARNINGS.

The question of storm warnings as issued by the Hongkong Observatory was once again brought forward by the shipping community. It was alleged that the warnings issued were meagre, that they were not issued on Sundays and Government holidays and that there was a lack of reciprocity between the officials at Hongkong and those at the admirably conducted Observatory at Sicawei, Shanghai. The Committee addressed the Government on the subject, and a long correspondence ensued. It was pointed out that, in view of the enormous value of the shipping passing through this port, it is necessary that a complete code of day and night signals, affording every variety of weather information to masters of vessels, should be established at the local Observatory, which should be second to none in its efficiency.

The Government were not inclined to institute any new flag system on the ground that it would not be suitable, but made arrangements for the more rapid distribution of the China Coast Meteorological Register. This small concession has been much appreciated by the shipping community.

That the Committee had some real grounds for dissatisfaction with the present system was shown by a letter addressed to the Chamber in September last signed by 39 masters of vessels using the port, asking that a Committee of Enquiry might be formed, and on this being communicated to the Government, His Excellency the Governor agreed to consider very carefully the report of any such Committee with every anxiety to give the fullest information to those persons for whose safety and that of their ships the Observatory was primarily established.

Your Committee thereupon asked all the shipping firms and agencies in Hongkong to

obtain the views of their shipmasters on the subject. This was well responded to, and representatives from the Shipping Departments of the Peninsular & Oriental S. N. Co. Messrs. Jardina, Matheson & Co., Butterfield & Swire, and Melchers & Co. were appointed, as a Sub-Committee, to report on the best method of signalling for use in the Observatory. Their report, advising the adoption of an extended system of symbol signals by day and lanterns by night, additional signal and observation stations, direct telephonic communication between the Harbour Office and the Observatory, daily simultaneous telegraphic observation from other Observatories up and down the coast, and that the latest instruments should be placed at the disposal of the staff, was adopted by the General Committee and sent on to the Government for consideration together with the whole correspondence received by the Chamber.

Over three months have elapsed without the receipt of any communication as to the attitude H.E. the Governor intends to take, but it is hoped that something will be done to improve the Observatory system of warnings before the 1903 typhoon season commences.

NEW BRITISH COMMERCIAL TREATY—THE EFFECTIVE 5% SPECIFIC TARIFF.

The Treaty between Great Britain and China signed at Shanghai on the 5th September last, reflects greatly to the credit of the British Commissioner, Sir James Lyle Mackay, and should the other Foreign Powers interested in the trade of China see fit to follow suit, the mutual benefits likely to accrue with the abolition of *lekin*, the institution of a national currency, the abolition of the artificial obstructions in the Canton River, the improving of the inland waterways, regulations as to trade-marks, the increase in the number of Treaty Ports, etc., the importance of the Treaty will have far-reaching effects.

The 5 per cent. specific tariff came into force on 1st November last. During the year the Committee were in constant communication with Sir James L. Mackay on various matters, to all of which he gave earnest attention.

A copy of the Treaty will be found in the Appendix Z 6.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Since its election at the last Annual Meeting, the following changes have taken place:—

The Chairman, Sir Thomas Jackson, Bart., the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Mr. Thomas Whitehead left the Colony. The Hon. C. S. Sharp, Messrs. W. Poate and A. Haupt went home on leave. Their places were filled by the Hon. C. W. Dickson, the Hon. R. Shewan and Messrs J. R. M. Smith, A. G. Wood, C. Michelau and E. R. Law. All the new members, with the exception of Mr. Michelau, have served on the Committee in previous years.

On Sir Thomas Jackson's retirement in May, 1902, the Vice-Chairman, Hon. C. S. Sharp, was elected to the Chair, Mr. W. Poate taking the latter's position as Vice-Chairman. At present Mr. E. A. Hewett, the Vice-Chairman appointed on Mr. Poate's departure, acts as Chairman.

THE SECRETARY.

Mr. R. C. Wilcox's resignation was notified in last year's report and the Committee appointed Mr. A. R. Lowe to fulfil the duties of Secretary on 17th April, 1902. In order to conform with Rule XII this appointment requires to be confirmed by the members at the annual meeting.

MEMBERS.

At the date of the annual meeting in 1902 the total membership was 121, composed of 100 firms and public companies and 21 single individuals. The present membership is 133, showing an increase of 9 firms and public companies and 3 private individuals.

Messrs. Holliday, Wise & Co. have ceased their membership, and Mr. B. Byramjee died during 1902.

The following have been admitted to membership, subject to confirmation at the annual meeting:—Messrs. Arraton V. Apar & Co., Mounsey & Brutton, Alex. Ross & Co., Edwards, Piry & Co., Limited, Rozario & Co., British-American Tobacco Co., Limited, Wilkinson, Heywood & Clark, Limited, International Banking Corporation, Mr. H. M. H. Nemaze, Mr. D. S. Dady-Burjor, Mr. Ferd. Bornemann, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Mr. A. G. Gordon, and the China Commercial Steamship Co., Limited.

FINANCE.

The Pinnacle Rock Fund amounts with interest to \$4,073.54 and is separately invested. No demands have been made on it during the year for discovery of rocks dangerous to navigation.

The Committee regret having to report that during the year it was discovered that the Clerk had been misappropriating the monies of the Chamber and that the defalcations extended over two or three years. During 1902 \$2,595.63 was stolen, of which \$1,250 was afterwards recovered. The Committee prosecuted, and on the prisoner pleading guilty, he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The accounts now presented are in the form of an income and expenditure account and balance sheet instead of, as before, merely a summary of the cash receipts and payments. These show that, after writing off \$1,480.63 for defalcations and prosecuting expenses, the surplus for the year (\$64.85) has been added to the Reserve Fund or Accumulated Surplus Fund which now stands at \$12,153.02. The reduction in this Fund, as compared with last year's accounts, is due to undisclosed liabilities in the previous accounts having to be met during 1902.

prisoner stayed at the bottom of the steps and the other two went up the steps. Shortly after these two men went up the lane he heard a few shots from a firearm coming from Yeung Kue Wan's house. During that time prisoner remained at the foot of the steps. Witness was standing in front of a grocer's shop in Gough Street. From there he could see the steps but not the door of the house. When he heard the shots he saw Lam Tsai come out of the lane, followed by Tang Chung. They went down Aberdeen Street. Prisoner followed them. Tsai Fak went last. They all went down to the Praya, walking quickly. Witness followed them. Three of the four went off in a sampan. He did not know what became of the fourth. From the time of the shooting until he saw the prisoner in the gaol he had not seen him.

Cross-examined—He had been making his living by selling fish for three months. Before that he was a brothel-keeper for between ten and twenty years. He was forty-four years old. He did not give information to the Hongkong police about the plot to murder Yeung Kue Wan because he was afraid of the Chinese Government. He saw the men going into Yeung Kue Wan's house to shoot him, but he had no time then to report the matter to the police. He did not know either whether the men were actually going to carry out the plan. The reason why he did not give any information to the police after the shooting was that at that time the police were relieving each other. The first information he gave to the police in connection with the matter was when a sergeant came and asked him to identify the prisoner.

Wong Shing, fisherman, stated that before the murder he met the prisoner, who asked him to assist him in shooting Yeung Kue Wan. He refused. Prisoner then asked for the use of witness's boat for the purpose of kidnapping the deceased. Witness refused, but his partner A Sam promised. At that time it was mentioned that there would be a reward of \$5,000 if Yeung Kue Wan was killed and \$10,000 if he was captured alive, the reward to come from Li Ka Chuk of the Chinese Government. Their boat came across to this side on the morning following the day upon which the conversation took place. On the next day he saw the prisoner looking at the boat. Two nights later he saw him again. Prisoner came off in a sampan. On that occasion he called for A Sam to let him have a bundle of clothing that he had left on board the boat. Prisoner said, "We have killed Yeung Kue Wan; we do not need your boat; you can go and secure business." He paid no money, saying that he had none. Prisoner then went away in the same sampan; he appeared to be frightened. Ten or twenty days later he saw prisoner at Canton. He along with a fokis was walking to the theatre in Housam when he met him. Prisoner said he had not yet got his reward from Li Ka Chuk and could not pay him. Witness saw prisoner at Yaumati last year on board a junk. Last month he saw prisoner again and gave information to the police which led to his arrest.

The Court adjourned at a quarter-past one o'clock for an hour.

Chan Chung, fisherman, Yaumati, said he had known the prisoner for several years. He first met him on the marriage boat there. That was on or about 1st November, 1900. Prisoner asked him to go on shore with him to drink tea and smoke opium. In the opium divan prisoner said Yeung Kue Wan was the chief rebel and the Chinese Government had offered a reward of between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for his capture; would witness assist him? Witness refused, saying he had not the courage. Prisoner said he did not need to be afraid, as he would get a reward and the Chinese Government would protect him. This reward was to come from Li Ka Chuk. Prisoner said Yeung Kue Wan lived in Hongkong. Witness saw the prisoner again on 28th December, 1900. On that occasion prisoner spoke about the murder of Yeung Kue Wan and asked witness to assist him. Witness refused. Prisoner repeated that he would be under the protection of the Chinese Government. He lent prisoner a dollar and exchanged his new shoes for prisoner's old ones. He next met prisoner in Canton about 19th January and accompanied him on board the Kw. Yui. While they were

dining prisoner said "Some time ago I asked you to do a certain thing and you were afraid, look at me now. I am a mandarin and have money to spend." Prisoner told him that they had killed Yeung Kue Wan. Lam Tsai did the actual killing and prisoner acted as a watchman.

Cross-examined—He was afraid to give information about the plot as the prisoner threatened that he would be beaten to death if he told anyone.

Sergeant E. O'Sullivan stated that he made the arrest acting on the information of Wong Shing. He did not know how Wong Shing came to be in communication with the police. When the prisoner was put in Victoria Gaol he had seen none of the witnesses but Wong Shing. Some days later prisoner was paraded among 13 others for identification and was identified by Kong Ngau Ying. Some time later there was another identification. The witnesses Chan Wan and Tam Chung identified him separately; Chan Chung also identified him.

This closed the evidence for the prosecution.

Mr. Morgan Phillips said he did not propose to call any witnesses for the defence. Proceeding to address the jury he said that within his experience he had never in a murder trial heard evidence which was so weak, so false and perjured. It had been conclusively proved that the actual murderer was Chan Lam Tsai; the jury might come to the conclusion that the accused was somewhere near the scene of that murder and if they did they had the evidence of Chan Lam Tsai's brother that prisoner ran away when the shots were fired. It had been proved that he was not the real instigator. The real instigators, the people who encompassed the death of Yeung Kue Wan, were the viceroy of the two provinces, Tak Li Ka Chuk, the military commandant of Canton, and his two lieutenants. He did not know whether any diplomatic steps had been taken to punish any of these people, but these were the persons who were guilty of the murder of Yeung Kue Wan—not this wretched coolie who was before the jury now.

The Acting Attorney-General in addressing the jury said his friend on the other side had asked every witness why he did not tell the police of the plot to murder Yeung Kue Wan, and each one had answered that he was afraid of the Chinese Government. And were they not safe under the protection of the Hongkong police? he asked. This case was an answer in itself. Yeung Kue Wan was not safe under the protection of the Hongkong police. It was questionable whether even now the lives of the witnesses who had given evidence were safe; it was a matter which it was better perhaps not to go into. Considering that the evidence had been collected piecemeal by the police it was remarkable how the stories of the various witnesses fitted into each other. Then it was noteworthy that the prisoner had called no witnesses. Supposing him innocent, surely he could have produced evidence to meet some of the many statements of the prosecution. For example, if the official rank was conferred on him for some proper reason he could prove it, and if it was not conferred on him at all he could prove that. The Acting Attorney-General then reviewed the points which had been raised for the defence. The prisoner's organisation of and participation in this dastardly murder for the most sordid of motives, mere money to be gained, had been proved as conclusively as it could ever practically be, having regard to the circumstances which necessarily enveloped such crime.

His Lordship in summing up said the criticism by the defence of the evidence for the Crown was based on this—that if it had been true the witnesses would have gone to the police or ought to have gone to the police and so saved the man Yeung Kue Wan. It was for the jury to say whether or no their silence was sufficient in their opinion to destroy the value of their testimony. As regards the law, if two men combined to murder a third and together went to the house, and one went into the house with his revolver and shot the man while the other remained outside to keep watch they were both guilty of murder. No witnesses had been called for the defence. The jury would be justified in accepting it as a fact that he would not have been able to call witnesses to prove that he was not in Hongkong at the time witnesses said

he was. If it was true that the officials in Canton made this plot it was no defence to the prisoner that they had not now standing before them in the dock those officials from Canton. As a possible explanation of the long silence of the witnesses and the sudden giving of information he might point out that the brother of one of the witnesses—Lam Tsai—who committed the actual murder—had been taken away by the Chinese Government for having been found in possession of a letter from Mr. May, the then head of the police in Hongkong, and that it was not unusual to suppose that the deceased man's brother in coming forward to give evidence might be actuated by the strongest of all passions, revenge.

The jury retired to consider their verdict at 4.50, returning to the Court at 5 o'clock, and the Foreman announced that the jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty.

His Lordship directed the prisoner to be asked if he had anything to urge why sentence should not be passed upon him?

The Prisoner replied that he did not do it; he had nothing more to say.

His Lordship addressing the prisoner said he had been found guilty of the murder of this man Yeung Kue Wan. If when he said that he did not commit the murder he meant that it was not by his hand that this man met his death then his statement was true. The charge against him was not that he himself did the deceased to death but that he was one of a gang of four men who went to his house for the purpose of killing him and did kill him. The evidence was that the prisoner with Chan Lam Tsai and two others went to deceased's house, that he remained with another man outside to watch, that Lam Tsai and another man went into the house, and that Lam Tsai shot the deceased. This evidence also was that for some considerable time previous to this he had been endeavouring to get persons to assist him to either capture and take back to Canton this man who was killed, or, being unable to effect his capture, to assist him in killing the man. The part he took therefore was well considered and deliberate, and in law he was regarded by the acts that he performed as a principal equally with Chan Lam Tsai. By the law of this country every person who was a principal in causing the unlawful death of another was guilty of murder if he was acting in concert. The penalty imposed by the law of this country upon persons who committed wilful and deliberate murder was death, and prisoner had been found guilty of murder. It was his Lordship's duty now to pronounce the sentence of death upon him. The sentence of the Court therefore was that he be taken from hence to the place from whence he came and from thence on a day to be hereafter fixed to the place of execution, and that there he be hanged by the neck until he be dead, and that thereafter his body be buried in such a place as the Governor may direct, and may the Lord have mercy on his soul.

As the prisoner was removed from the dock he exclaimed, "It is a false accusation."

The Acting Attorney-General said he wished to draw his Lordship's attention specially to the services of Sergeant O'Sullivan who had had charge of this case from the beginning and had collected all the evidence in the case.

His Lordship asked what form his notice could take.

The Acting Attorney-General replied that his Lordship might commend him. If he saw fit to commend Sergeant O'Sullivan's conduct in the case any commendation coming from the Bench would probably be given effect to.

His Lordship said that nothing had come before him to show any special acts on the part of the police. But he took it from the Acting Attorney-General that the Sergeant's conduct was such as deserved worthy commendation and he commended him accordingly.

The Court adjourned.

At Pingtu over 150 people were recently burned to death while worshipping in a temple. In burning incense and large quantities of paper, the staircases of the building was set alight, thus preventing all escape. Some jumped out of the windows but were crushed to death on the stones. Others would have jumped but the rush was so great that they could not get out. Most of the victims were burned beyond recognition.

THE FAMINE IN KWANGSI.

ADDRESS BY MR. C. CLEMENTI.

On the 20th inst. Mr. C. Clementi, Relief Fund Commissioner, met the Relief Committee formed here in connection with the famine in Kwangsi, and spoke on the conditions he found existing there during his recent visit to the province. The meeting was held in the Chamber of Commerce Room City Hall, and was presided over by H.E. the Governor. There was a good attendance of the public, and included in it were Lady Blake; Hon. Sir H. S. Berkeley, Acting Chief Justice; Hon. F. H. May, and Hon. G. Stewart.

His EXCELLENCY in introducing Mr. Clementi, recalled the meeting that had been held in the Legislative Council Chamber on 23rd April last, and recapitulated what he gave utterance to on that occasion. Since the Committee had been formed and relief distributed, the conclusion had to come to that it would be well to recall Mr. Clementi to Hongkong and ask him to state at a public meeting what he had himself seen in those parts of Kwangsi that he had visited; and after Mr. Clementi had furnished those details it would be agreed that everything the Committee had done had been entirely justified. (Applause.) The Committee had appealed to the different classes of the community—first to the Chinese, and then to the non-Chinese who owed their prosperity to their dealings with the Chinese people. It had appealed also to the altruistic feeling of charity which is found equally in the East as in the West, and which was impelled by a divine feeling of pity and a desire to assuage human suffering. Those who had not subscribed to the relief of the suffering people had a perfect right to please themselves, but for those who had subscribed justification for the appeal which had been made, and which had met with a fair response, would be found in the statement to be furnished by Mr. Clementi, whom His Excellency then introduced.

Mr. CLEMENTI prefaced his remarks by stating that he had seen it stated in the *China Mail* that representatives of the Chinese community of Singapore were credited by Mr. Scott to have contributed \$70,000 and it was further stated that in a report of his he had mentioned that a sum of \$40,000 was the utmost required to relieve the famine. He had made no such statement. He never mentioned \$40,000 as being sufficient; it was utterly insufficient. He wished to appeal to the Press not to publish anonymous letters without verifying the statements made in them. It would give him great pain if owing to a misrepresentation of what he said in a report carelessly printed in a paper anyone should be deterred from subscribing money to relieve some of the starving people of Kwangsi. The prevailing famine was the result of the failure of three successive harvests. Mr. Clementi went on to describe what he had seen in the districts through which he had travelled, his account being mainly an amplification of his letters already published in the Press. In Kwei ping, he related, about 1,500 prisoners convicted of serious offences had been executed at the rate of from 10 to 100 each day. The bodies lay on the ground and the people came and cut off the flesh and ate it. If the butcher-man got there first he took it all and sold it at a profit. The lowest estimate of people needing relief in merely the districts he had visited was 349,000. In every single district he visited the local Chinese officials and gentry were doing their best to relieve the famine. At the cheap-rice sales so great was the crush that many people were crushed to death, especially infants carried on their mothers' backs. In Nanning there was cholera and further up the river plague was reported to be prevalent. Trade in Kwangsi was at a standstill. There was no money. The officials were collecting no taxes: on the other hand they were doling out money; they had to support larger numbers of troops than usual. He honestly did not think one could squeeze another penny out of Kwangsi for the relief of Kwangsi itself. In Kwei ping and Kwaiyun the distress was terrible; in Nanning and neighbouring district it was no less terrible. After describing what was being done in the way of relief measures by different agencies, Mr. Clementi said the Hongkong Committee

should aim at co-operation with the Chinese or other European committees which might be started. The situation in Nanning was extremely urgent. There were dangers in transport but the prefect of Nanning had promised that if there was any rice available to be sent there he would have it escorted the whole way by Chinese gunboats, and trackers would be employed to get it there with all despatch. In Nanning he did not know how many thousands would have died since he was there; but he should estimate that some 8,000 who were being fed would have died from starvation. The relief would certainly have to go on till the end of June, the beginning of next harvest, always provided that the next harvest was a good one. What should be reckoned for was five weeks' supply. That would mean that 18,200 piculs were needed in Nanning, in Wengsuang 10,000. If they confined themselves to these districts, leaving out Kwaiyun and Tsam Chau, that would mean 28,200 piculs which, calculated at \$5 a picul for cost and freight, came to \$141,000, of which they might expect to recover \$41,000 by sales. If they included the other two districts he had mentioned the estimated sum required would be \$210,750. Mr. Clementi proceeded to say that he had been met with several objections since returning to Hongkong. In the first place, the Kwangsi Chinese, it was argued, might do more themselves to relieve the distress, but they had done all they could, and could do no more. Then some of the big firms in the Colony had suggested that labour might be imported here. Up the West River there were thousands willing to come. In April the British North Borneo Company had sent up an agent who brought back several hundreds of men, women, and children for the plantations in Borneo. It had also been said that the Cantonese should do more. One of the Cantonese benevolent societies had already contributed 100,000 taels, and the distress in Kwangtung province was another drain upon their resources. Lastly, it had been asserted in some quarters that there was a "corner" in rice in Canton, and in refutation of this statement the speaker quoted figures which showed it not only to be unlikely but practically impossible that such a "corner" could exist. Even supposing there was a "corner" he concluded, it was absurd to refuse to subscribe to any relief fund. If the starving people in Kwangsi were being made the victims of speculators, all the more reason that help should be extended to them. (Applause.)

Mr. GERSHOM STEWART next addressed the meeting. He did so briefly, and said that from the statement furnished by Mr. Clementi their existence as a Committee to relieve famine had been fully justified. Their principal trouble had been to secure assistance for disbursements; bodies in Kwangsi and other helpers had now overcome that difficulty. Mr. Stewart read extracts from a letter received on the 11th inst. from Mr. Fee, missionary at Tsamchau, which showed that the distress was most acute. The Committee were endeavouring to keep a steady supply of rice going forward, and in this connection they were indebted to Mr. Fox, H.B.M. Consul at Wuchow, who had been most kind in receiving and forwarding all rice sent up. (Applause.)

Mr. HO TUNG complimented Mr. Clementi on the valuable work he had done, and suggested that the scheme of importing labour from Kwangsi into this Colony might be tried. Some European friends of his had suggested to him that the coolie guilds here prevented the adoption of that measure, but his conviction was that not only had very few people in Kwangsi ever seen Hongkong, but they could not find the necessary travelling money. He further suggested that a guarantee fund might be started to enable these poor people to come to the Colony from Kwangsi, they to repay out of their wages whatever amount might have been advanced to them, so that those who subscribed to the fund should be at no loss. He was willing, Mr. Ho Tung concluded, to co-operate in any undertaking that had in view the accomplishment of this object.

HIS EXCELLENCY also expressed appreciation of the valuable work done by Mr. Clementi, but declined to support Mr. Ho Tung's suggestion for the import of labour. It would deprive Kwangsi of those whose services would be required when the harvest

came, and in Hongkong would create a demand for accommodation that could not be met. It simply came to this, that as far as the disbursement of money went, the committee would exert itself to place subscriptions in the best possible way for the affording of relief; and speaking from personal knowledge, he had no hesitation in saying that when the different communities in Hongkong were satisfied their help was wanted, they would not have the slightest hesitation in extending that help. (Applause.)

This concluded the proceedings.

The following is the letter, extracts of which were read by the Hon. Gershom Stewart, at the above meeting:—

Kwai ping, 15th May 1903.

DEAR SIR—The past days have been so filled with various duties that it has been quite impossible to do much else, so there has been no letter concerning the famine work.

On May 2nd, the number of people who came for food was so great that the Emperor's Temple, which has been granted to us for the distributing of rice, was not large enough to contain them all, so the Prefect gave us the use of his front courtyard for the overflow. When we saw that there were so many it was decided that on the next day we would distribute to women and children only, and to the men one day later. But just at this time the Cantonese merchants doing business in the city, received their first shipment of rice for distribution, from Wuchow, and came in to say that they had decided to give some aid to the famine sufferers. Their suggestion was that they should distribute to all, as we had been doing, alternating with us. We then spoke of the greatly increased numbers, strongly recommending that they give to either men or women, thus dividing the burden of the work. This they decided to do, and to the present have continued to take this upon themselves, distributing to the men, so that now we give rice on every third day, viz.—May 2nd, 5th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and so on as long as their supply holds out. We have been told that when the merchants' supply gives out, the Benevolent Society from Canton expects to continue their part of the work. For this, however, we have no reliable word, but hope it is true. If this fails the whole burden will no doubt be cast back on us in a week or ten days, so we mention the possibility of such a thing, lest we be not prepared for the emergency.

On the 11th, we gave to about 12,000 persons, averaging about one catty per person, but as we felt there were some who were not so needy, we were more strict in our examination yesterday, and therefore gave to rather fewer than on the day previous. It is very difficult to really know who needs the rice and who does not, as some are only now at the end of their own resources and as yet show no signs of real want, but we know that we have made some mistakes in thus keeping some real needy ones out. The lesson will have a good influence on some who are not in real need, and we hope that it may not be necessary to continue the strict scrutiny of all who come, but that when the people really know that we mean to be careful, some who can do without help will stay away.

As there are so many coming here the work is heavy, and we welcomed the arrival of Mr. Fletcher yesterday morning. As there is now a prospect of more rice in a few days, we hope that when the next shipment comes there may be sufficient to send some on to Kwai Hsien. The need is beyond description, and is bound to continue until the rice is harvested. We earnestly hope that the reports of rebellion, and of the famine reports being exaggerated, will not materially hinder the liberality of those who have any sympathy for their suffering fellow-men. Even with the aid we are giving, there are a great many dying daily, both old and young, even to nursing infants.

There are now six foreigners here aiding in the work, and we are all doing our utmost to prevent unworthy persons obtaining rice, and also to secure the best possible results from what is entrusted to us for distribution.

If after consulting with Mr. Clementi, your Committee has any suggestions to offer for a better method or work, we will be glad to receive your instructions, or recommendations.

There is a small matter, that may help to give you a better understanding of the destitution,

which has just come to mind. The city is situated on a Y between two rivers, so that many who come must take the ferry in order to get to the place where we distribute rice, and a few days ago our attention was called to the fact that on that day about 200 women and children had sat on the opposite bank of the river, without food, because they had not the two cash to pay the ferry. There are many incidents that could be mentioned but time will not permit, and still we feel it a duty to those who have so kindly undertaken the financial support of the work to let them know something of what is being done, and trust these few lines may be of interest to those concerned. Thanking you for your kind efforts to do what we are utterly unable to do, viz., support financially, and relief on a much larger scale than we could give, and awaiting further instructions, —I remain, yours very truly,

JOHN E. FEE,
(per B. G. F.).

The Hon. Treasurers of the Kwangsi Famine Fund beg to acknowledge receipt of the following subscriptions:—

Amount previously acknowledged	\$14,241.52
U. Rumjahn...	20.00
Khenish Mission Society in Tong-kun (Chinese and Foreign)	50.00
Palmer & Turner...	100.00
Anonymous...	15.00
Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.	150.00
P. Q. R.	20.00
H. E. Pollock, K.C.	200.00
W. B. Dixon...	200.00
R. F. Johnston...	25.00
Miss Blake...	10.00
Parsee...	2.00
Anonymous...	1.00
Forestman...	15.00
T. Morgan Phillips...	25.00
A. G. Ward...	15.00
E. Georg & Co.	25.00
H. Skott & Co.	100.00
Capt. F. W. Lyons...	15.00
F. J. B.	50.00
Major Ayerst...	20.00
T. E. Cocker...	10.00
G. Harling...	20.00
C. Mittell...	20.00
H. Figge...	20.00
K. Oldrop...	20.00
E. Niedhardt...	5.00
Swart...	5.00
G. Friesland...	5.00
A. Rombach...	5.00
P. Brewitt...	5.00
A. Andt...	5.00
W. Pucher...	10.00
Chau Tung Shang...	2,000
Yuen Fat Hong...	500
Chin Wa Fung Opium Farm...	500
Kwong Mow Tai...	300
Hop Hing Hong...	200
Lo Kun Ting...	300
I On...	30
Ming Shun Sheung Kee...	100
Tak Cheong Hong...	200
Kin Tai Loong...	200
Ming U Tai...	200
Wo Kee Hong...	100
Man Cheung Yuen...	10
Kwong Tak Fat...	100
Kin Fat Hong...	100
Wo Shing...	100
Chun Cheong Wing...	100
Shui Wing Cheong...	100
Yee Shun Tai...	100
Hang Shing Cheong...	100
Kwan Bing Lung...	100
Kwai Mow Hong...	100
Yü Tak Shing...	100
Kam Fung U...	100
Kwong Man Wo...	100
Wo Hing Tai...	100
Chun On Insurance Co.	100
Man On Insurance Co.	100
Po On Insurance Co.	100
I On Insurance Co.	100
Yan On Insurance Co.	100
Tak On Insurance Co.	100
Fak On Insurance Co.	100
Hip On Insurance Co.	100

\$22,639.52

1,060 piculs of rice have already been shipped for distribution amongst the sufferers at a cost of \$9,613.18.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 21st inst. in the Board Room. Present:—Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (President), Hon. W. Chatham (Vice-President), Captain Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. C. McI. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Col. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. Fung Wa Chun Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Dr. Pearce, Acting Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

RESUMPTION OF PROPERTY.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the proposed resumption of certain property and the provision of a backyard for No. 19, Circular Pathway.

The PRESIDENT said there was an application from Messrs. Leigh & Orange for exemption practically from providing a backyard to this house in Circular Pathway. He had visited the house that morning, and found that the adjoining one, No. 18, had a backyard. It had been a rule of the Board not to grant exemption in the case of any house more than 20 feet in depth, and this house was 37 feet 6 inches in depth, but as it appeared that there was to be a street at the back of the house 35 feet in width, he thought the Board might consider this as a case in which they could grant exemption.

The VICE-PRESIDENT supported the suggestion, and the application was granted.

REMOVAL OF RUBBISH.

Mr. RUMJAHN, pursuant to notice, moved:—That, as under the present regime all house refuse and pig wash remain on the premises during the sleeping hours, forming food for rats and supplying also a powerful source for a vitiated and poisoned atmosphere, the Board request the Acting Medical Officer of Health to report on the advisability and expediency of having such house refuse and pig wash removed in the evening, daily, instead of allowing them to fester and fume until the morning, under the present system.

Speaking in support of his motion, Mr. RUMJAHN said refuse usually remained on premises during sleeping hours, and pigwash sometimes lay for two or three days before being taken away by the people who had bought it for their pigs. The objects of the motion were to render the air during sleeping hours purer and to exterminate rats, which thrived on the rubbish.

The PRESIDENT said that if Mr. Rumjahn's suggestion was adopted it would mean that the bye-laws and conditions of the scavenging contract would have to be amended, and it would not improve the present state of affairs, for the reason that the accumulation of rubbish from Chinese eating-houses and domiciles where evening meals were partaken of would lie until the afternoon of the following day, instead of being removed next morning, as was done under the present regime.

No one seconded the motion, which accordingly fell through.

Mr. HEWETT said if it was the case that pigwash, because it was a marketable produce and had been sold to someone, was allowed to remain in a house for three days before being removed by its purchaser, as Mr. Rumjahn had stated, steps should be taken to ensure its being taken away within the twenty-four hours.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN said the refuse was removed every day.

The subject was then dropped.

FINES FOR MISCONDUCT.

The PRESIDENT, pursuant to notice, moved:—That the Board appoint a Select Committee consisting of the President and the Acting Medical Officer of Health under Section 14 Sub-section (2) of Ordinance No. 1 of 1903, for the purpose of inflicting fines for misconduct or neglect of duty. He said the object of the motion was to save a lot of unnecessary trouble and delay.

Mr. MESSER seconded, and the proposal was agreed to.

THE RECENT MEETING OF PROPERTY OWNERS.

The SECRETARY read a letter which he had

received that afternoon from Mr. Hewett giving notice that he intended to ask why the public meeting of property owners held on Monday had been called without previous notice having been given to the members of the Sanitary Board.

Having been enlightened on the procedure of the Board in such matter, Mr. Hewett put his question, and said he did so in no spirit of carping criticism. There was, however, he thought, an important principle involved. The only notice that he received of the meeting was from an advertisement in the local papers, and the only information he got about the meeting was also from the local papers, and from one or two friends of his who attended the meeting. He spoke to two or three members of the Sanitary Board, and they, like himself, had received no notice of the meeting. Of course, it was perfectly competent for the President or any official of the Board to summon a meeting in proper form; the principle was the point he wished to discuss, and he thought it most inadvisable that any meeting of the Board should be summoned over the signature of the Secretary without an opportunity being given to members to express their views on the matter to be considered at the meeting. When a notice appeared in the papers over the signature of the Secretary, presumably the meeting was called under sanction of the Board. The question was an important one, and he trusted they understood the motive that had impelled him to speak upon it.

The PRESIDENT in reply to Mr. Hewett's question stated that under the standing orders of the Board 48 hours' notice of a motion or question should be given. He was glad, however, with the permission of the Board, to waive that, as it gave him an opportunity of referring to the meeting of property owners held in that room on the afternoon of the 18th instant. As he stated in his letter to the Press, he regretted that a misunderstanding had occurred concerning the object of the meeting; it was an informal meeting to explain to the Chinese property owners the meaning of Sections 46 and 154 of Ordinance No. 1 of 1903. Although some 2,000 hand-bills had been printed and distributed explanatory of these two sections, from information he had it was evident that the Chinese did not understand them and it was thought advisable that they should. It never occurred to him that the European property owners would have any difficulty in understanding these sections. In the first instance, with the assistance of the Registrar-General, he invited the Chinese property owners of No. 5 health district to meet him on May 4th last. Only some seven came, and at Hon. Wei A Yuk's suggestion he adjourned the meeting and requested authority to hold another meeting at a later date which should be open to all the property owners of the Colony. The first meeting was an informal one and it was the intention that the second should also be informal. Authority was asked to advertise this proposed meeting in the newspapers, and it was owing to the wording of this advertisement that the difficulty had arisen. As he had said before, he regretted this, and if the word "Chinese" had appeared before "property owners" it would have been clear that the meeting was meant to be confined to Chinese. Had he desired a formal meeting he would undoubtedly have consulted the Board, and it was with regret he saw that his desire to assist the Chinese property owner should have been misunderstood. He had been incorrect in stating at the meeting that it was held at the Governor's request; it was with his authority. In conclusion, if the Board were of the opinion that it would be advisable to call together a meeting of the property owners to consider these sections he would be very pleased to have a motion to that effect.

Mr. POLLOCK was of opinion that no distinction should be drawn between a formal and an informal meeting. Here was a meeting which was publicly called by an advertisement in the columns of the Press, and the point, as he understood it, of Mr. Hewett's objection was that that was a notice of meeting purporting to be signed by the Secretary of the Sanitary Board and therefore purporting to be a meeting summoned

by the Sanitary Board. He thought that Mr. Hewett had quite properly raised the question of principle, and he fully supported him. If any meeting was summoned above the signature of the Secretary of the Sanitary Board, the permission of the Board ought previously to be obtained to the summoning of that meeting. That was the point, he understood, which Mr. Hewett intended to raise, and that was the point which it was to be hoped would be kept in view in the future if the Board proposed holding any meetings.

The President regretted that the advertisement should have appeared in the way it did—under the Royal Arms and over the signature of the Secretary of the Board, and he would take care that in future no meeting should be called without first consulting the Board.

LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended 12th May showed that out of 5,046 total houses in the Central district, 3,918 had been limewashed. Three out of 2,303 tenement houses in the Western district were similarly treated.

RAT RETURN.

During the week ending 4th May the total number of rats caught in the Colony was 3,193, of which 17 were infected. For the weeks ended 11th and 18th May the figures were—3,691 rats caught, 27 infected; 3,671 rats caught, 211 infected.

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION.

An application was read for exemption from the providing of backyards at 3 and 15, Kromer Street, Tai Kok Tsui.

The Director of Public Works minuted: "Are these houses built or are they about to be built? If the latter, I think some additional open space should be required, otherwise the provisions of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance will be practically a dead letter. The lot appears to be 50 feet in depth."

The Secretary minuted in reply: "These houses are about to be built."

The Vice-President moved that the application be not granted unless the air spaces be materially increased.

Mr. MISSE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE CLOSING OF THEATRES.

An application was considered requesting that the Ko Shing Theatre may not be closed by the Board. The petitioners were the managers of the theatre, who said that it was always kept clean and neat, and that they had to pay the landlords whether the theatre was closed or not. They offered in conclusion to provide for better ventilation and to whitewash the hall once every three months. Since the outbreak of plague, they had already engaged many more coolies to cleanse the theatre daily after the performance.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted: "The closing of this and the other theatres will undoubtedly inflict great hardship and loss on the lessees. Every year plague begins to gradually abate after the month of June. If compensation is to be paid, the good done, if any, is not worth the money spent. I am still of opinion that it would do much more good to compel the owners and lessees to always maintain the premises in strict accordance with sanitary requirements than to close them for a month or so. I submit that the Board should grant the application on the following conditions, viz. to thoroughly wash and cleanse out the premises once a fortnight and limewash them once every three months; to keep the hall well ventilated; and to regulate the number of seats, so that no overcrowding will take place."

Mr. Rumjahn minuted: "I think bye-laws should be made for the regulating of the number of persons admitted in theatres, for the better provision of light and ventilation, and the periodical cleansing and disinfecting of same."

Mr. FONG WA CHUN—The theatres have not been closed yet.

The President—The matter is still under the consideration of the Government.

The President read Mr. Rumjahn's minute, and said that as a theatre was not a tenement house they could not compel the usual two-yearly limewashing to be carried out.

Capt. LYOT—Make that a condition of the licence.

The Vice-President moved that the

application be forwarded to the Government. It was outside the jurisdiction of the Board to actually close the theatres; they could only recommend the step to the Government, so that the application to the Board was *ultra vires*.

Mr. MISSE seconded, and the motion was carried.

SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS.

The SECRETARY read a minute by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon recommending that Inspector A. Watson be deputed by the Board to institute summary proceedings.

The PRESIDENT made the necessary motion to give effect to the recommendation of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon.

The Vice-President seconded, and it was agreed to unanimously.

THE RE-OPENING OF A WELL.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the re-opening of a well at Nos. 112 and 114, Wellington Street.

The PRESIDENT explained that the well had been closed some three months ago, but the water was required in connection with building operations going on in the vicinity, and as it was not to be used for potable purposes he thought permission might be granted to reopen the well.

The Vice-President seconded, and the application was granted.

"RINDERPEST."

The PRESIDENT read a minute by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon relative to experiments with reference to the cattle disease known as rinderpest, and asking the Government to grant \$3,000 for its investigation.

The PRESIDENT moved that the minute be forwarded to Government and that authority be obtained for the expenditure of the money.

Mr. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

SCAVENGING OF HILL DISTRICT.

The report relative to the scavenging of the Hill district showed that during the period from the 10th till the 17th inst. 745 piculs of rubbish were removed.

The PRESIDENT said the report showed that the scavenging contractor was doing his work somewhat better. Arrangements were being made for an European inspector to be employed to superintend scavenging work in the Peak district.

This was all the business.

THE SITUATION AT NEWCHWANG.

The *Shanghai Mercury* publishes the following lengthy telegram from a special correspondent at Newchwang:—

Newchwang, 15th May.

The extraordinary rumours in circulation regarding Manchuria, wherein both Chinese and Europeans report numerous aggressions by Cossacks, upon being analysed on the spot prove to be entirely fictitious. The Chinese are impressed, however, by these reports in the newspapers and in many instances are preparing to leave their homes in the event of anything definite occurring. In this event there will ensue a panic, and the natives along the railway outside of Shenhaiwan and the rural districts will disappear immediately. Outside of official circles there is great indifference as to the result of a possible conflict, although this is of course much dreaded. The occupation of Manchuria is regarded with varying feelings, but the Russians are apparently popular, even with the other nationalities at the port. The conditions of the port of Newchwang are unaltered. The report of the reoccupation of the Liao forts sent to Europe is absurd, as these were absolutely razed weeks ago. The town of Newchwang is policed by one hundred Infantry and a company of Cavalry, while half that number of Cossacks are stationed at the railway station, five miles from the city. The nearest military centre is at Ta Shichiao, the intersection of the Manchurian line with the Siberian line, where the guards and troops number about twenty thousand, although even this figure is entirely problematical as the positions of the detachments of the system are continually changing. The reports of the reoccupation of Newchwang are based upon the presence of a cavalry escort of the officer in com-

mand of the district, who held a social consultation with the officers at Newchwang, and remained only about an hour. The reports contained in irresponsible telegrams are producing a mischievous effect, causing irritation to the consuls and discomfort to the civilians.

There is a strong opinion here that Russia will relinquish the administration abruptly, and of this there are distinct indications of preparedness. Still she was endeavouring beforehand to secure a firmer foothold, indications showing the direction of her efforts to have been relative to part of her published demands. The present Health Officer, an Englishman (Dr. C. C. de Burgh Daly), has practically, it is understood, been replaced by a Russian in consequence of having declined to take his leave, which was due last April. But to the official chagrin he remains here. The complete transfer of the government telegraphs to the Russians is only an incidental consideration, although vexatious.

Summarised, I believe Russia's immediate ambition is to impress China with the weight of her power and her ability to flout the Powers by suiting her own convenience in conforming to their conditions. This conduct is in keeping with her show at the entry into the Imperial Palace at Peking, where, although it was otherwise arranged, she displayed a force three times larger than that of any of the other nations represented. Incalculable commercial benefits necessarily accrue from even temporary continuation of the control of Newchwang, as the Russians are daily diverting trade from that centre, to the great detriment of other nations.

ON THE LIST.

When the Puisne Judge sits on the 15th inst. to adjust the roll it is always worth while to be there. The spirit of the Bench, genial invariably, communicates itself to the Bar, and the Bar never fail to turn up in such numbers as to tax the usher's temper in the matter of procuring seats for their accommodation. The musty, moth eaten garments of the robing-room get a much-needed airing, and some of the silk so displayed is in a state of decrepitude and decay which would call forth sacrilegious comment from the vulgar were it not for the fact that the robes, unlike charity, cover a multitude of legal excellences protected by a thorough and ready knowledge of the law of libel. It is indeed whispered that so much is Friday's Court enjoyed of the Bar that solicitors are there who have no call to be: to see and hear the judge dispose of the cases one after another is a study in judicial method, valuable to the legal mind and a lesson in good-humour. "Well, Mr. H-a-g-s, I suppose you are applying for an adjournment in this case No. 1,000?—you always are wanting adjournments." Mr. H. replies in kind that in this case specially he does not want delay; but he gets it. Another Mr. H., the tail of whose name denotes a place in which to dwell, gravely assures his Lordship that he is absolutely in consonance with his friend on the opposite side, and his Lordship smiles as he enters the case for next week and thinks of the battle to come between the harmonious pair. In some of the districts of Scotland "it" is pronounced "hett." His robe may lack in pristine blush, but the same deficiency does not apply to the keenness of his acumen. With the giants of the local Bar he does not fear to break a lance, and never in the quip and quibble of a Friday morning is he worsted. There is one figure that we would miss badly. His face shines with humour and his physical proportions are on a par with his immense stock of loving-kindness. He is at peace with all the world, excepting the opposing solicitor; and it is said, with what degree of truth we know not, that he has been known to wink at the Bench. At any rate old pressmen allege that he has wickedly covered his left visual organ with the eyelid which belongs to that member what time he explained *sotto voce* that the amount paid into Court in the case was just inside the figure that carries enlarged expenses with it. "Lucres" is an all-pervading personality. With foot on chair and hand on knee, incisive voice and crease immaculate, he makes the mind to wander in its attempt to decide which is the referee and which the advocate. Only

one member of the bar sports a monocle. It is said that he has been mistaken on occasion for a recent eminent visitor to South Africa. He generally gets his point. Generally, again, when he asks for an adjournment, takes care to leave clear the golf field or other final days. Parliament must not sit on Derby Day, and the Judge concurs like the good sportsman that he is. If a breach of Court etiquette, however slight, should occur, small sympathy is shown the offender, who has to put up with chaff interminable. A certain official came into Court the other day minus his wig, and rapid was his exit when apprised of the lack. A young practitioner entered in a great hurry recently adjusting his gown. His presence after all was not essential in the case and he was leaving the Court murmuring something about having made a mistake, when his Honour wisely remarked as he passed him on the way out: "Another mistake, Mr. H.; where's your black coat?" The solicitor's departure was precipitated thereby, and he lost no time in hiding his blushes under a cloud of cigarette smoke. He had on a light coloured jacket that morning. Now he wears a more sombre garment.

And so the roll is adjusted for another week.

R. P. MOFFITT IN THE COLONY.

PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT.

The P. & A. steamer *Indrapura*, having on board R. P. Moffitt, ex-secretary of the Dairy Farm Company, Ltd., in charge of Lance-Sergeant Earner, arrived in the harbour on the 15th inst. about 7 a.m. Moffitt, who is charged with embezzlement, looked very fit and well. He and Sergeant Earner were very good friends indeed on the voyage back to the Colony, notwithstanding the relative positions they occupied. At Kobe, Moffitt told Sergeant Earner that if he wished to visit the Osaka Exhibition he could do so in perfect safety, as he (Moffitt) would remain on the ship until he came back. Sergeant Earner, however, declined to avail himself of this opportunity for sight-seeing, preferring to remain by his prisoner. The pursuit of Moffitt has occupied Sergeant Earner about six months, and that officer has returned to his duties here with quite an "Amurrican" sobert and many pleasant recollections of his unexpectedly prolonged visit to the States.

On the 15th afternoon Moffitt was brought before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Police Magistrate, and charged "For that he, the said Robert Percy Moffitt, on the 27th day of September, 1902, at Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, then being secretary to the Dairy Farm Co., Ltd., feloniously and fraudulently did embezzle and steal certain goods—to wit, the sum of \$2,075 received by him on account of the said Dairy Farm Co., Ltd., contrary to Section 55 of Ordinance 7 of 1865. And for that he, the said Robert Percy Moffitt, on the 29th day of April, 1902, and the 11th day of October, 1902, at Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, then being secretary to the Dairy Farm Co., Ltd., feloniously and fraudulently did embezzle and steal certain goods—to wit, the sum of \$9,877.66 received by him on account of the said Dairy Farm Co., Ltd., contrary to Section 55 of Ordinance 7 of 1865."

To these charges, which were laid on the complaint of Mr. F. Maitland, chairman of the board of directors of the Dairy Farm Company, Moffitt, who was described as an accountant, and of Australia, pleaded guilty. His Worship remanded the case till the 22nd inst., when it was further adjourned till the 26th inst., on which date evidence will probably be heard.

Damage to the extent of about \$1,000—according to the estimate formed by the proprietor—was done by a fire which broke out early yesterday morning in a peppermint manufacturer's shop on the first floor at 38, Second Street. The place was insured in the Tung-On Company for \$7,000.

It is notified in the *Government Gazette* that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased, under the powers conferred on him by Section 6 of the Public Holidays Ordinance, 1875, to appoint Monday, the 25th inst. (as the anniversary of the birthday of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria falls on Sunday) to be a public holiday.

A DAY AT THE MAGISTRACY.

At home the Police Court is in many places a popular rendezvous, and the people who gather within its precincts as interested or disinterested spectators seem to derive as much enjoyment, if not always instruction, from the proceedings as a party of school children from a magic-lantern entertainment. Out here the case is different—so far, at least, as concerns Europeans, for whom, even though time permitted, the scanty accommodation of the stuffy little Police Court has no attractions, whatever inducements otherwise might offer. The Chinese, however, of the class that frequents the Court daily—when the weather is nice—do not mind crowding and its attendant discomforts, and although their room doubtless would be preferable to their company, the Police Court, unless when circumstances impel the magistrate to decree otherwise, is open to the public, and so long as quietness and order are observed spectators are permitted to attend.

The amount of judicial business transacted at the Magistracy in a single day is surprising, and when one considers the many different languages that usually have to be interpreted into plain, every-day English, surprise gives place to wonder. The Scotch tongue is not generally regarded by Britishers as a foreign one—although its dialectical peculiarities are often difficult of comprehension by people born south of the Tweed—but at least one case has occurred at the Magistracy where the services of an interpreter were necessary to render intelligible the evidence of a "praw, praw Heelan man" not long arrived in the Colony and still bearing traces of his native rusticity. "Where did you find this opium?" he was asked, among other questions, in reference to the matter on hand. "In a neuk, yer Worship, among a pickle orral." Repeated questioning could not vary the answer, which had at last to be explained to the magistrate by a Scotch inspector of police as meaning "in a corner amongst some odds and ends." Rebuked afterwards by his superior officer for his bad choice of words, the policeman, apostrophising the magistrate's inability to understand him, rejoined—"Puir oratur, did he want me tae deliver a sermon?" This recalls to mind an incident that happened—or is said to have happened, which is much the same thing in the long run—in the Police Court of a small seaport town in Scotland. A French sailor who had been taken into custody for fighting was asked by the bailie, "Weel, monsieur, what hae ye tae say tae the charge o' fechtin' at the harbour?" The Frenchman made a gesture expressive of his inability to understand the interrogation. The Court made another attempt, and adopted the common expedient of endeavouring to convey a meaning to a foreigner by talking in broken English to him. "Monsieur, what have ye to say to dis charge? Surely ye canna miss comprangdin that?" "Interpretare," said the prisoner. "An' ye need ane, tae," pityingly replied the bailie. "I canna mak' oot a'e half ye say, an' I'm no' sure if ye ken yer ee—ye puir, silly, jabberin' oratur. Awa' ye go, an' be sure tae keep the peace till yer ship leaves, when ye can cut each ither's throats for me. But diinna kick up ony mair stramashes in oor quate toon."

We have already referred to the multiplicity of languages encountered in a day's work at the Magistracy. There may be appearing nationals from all four corners of the globe (if corners can exist on a sphere), but the business of the Court never comes to a standstill—it doesn't even hesitate, as the porter told the old lady who enquired with surprise if the express train that had just dashed through the station didn't stop there. In they come, people from the East, from the West, from the North, and from the South, but interpreters are found for everyone of them, and Babel resolves itself into Sunday-school order. On the staff at the Magistracy is one polyglot who handles about half-a-dozen dialects and languages with as much facility as he does English, his native tongue.

In reports of Police Court proceedings at home the word "laughter" is often interpolated, but here it is rarely the case that anything beyond a smile greets a livening incident in the daily routine. This is not due to any lack of appreciation, be it remembered, nor

does it indicate that the proverbial inability of the Scot to see a joke extends to the magistracy. For one thing, the dignity of the Court is never lost sight of, and no encouragement is given to levity; and for another, these incidents have so come to be regarded as a matter of course that they—well, have simply come to be regarded as a matter of course. However, if it is deficient in bolsterousness—what a word to associate with a Police Court, most solemn of institutions!—the feeling of enjoyment when the tribilities are tickled is never lacking in genuineness. Many *bons mots* are found in the statements advanced by Chinese defendants in extenuation or explanation of the offences alleged against them. Asked how he came into possession of a cable chain suspected of having been stolen, the master of a sampan calmly imparted the information that he had found it "floating in the harbour!" Just as startling in its originality was the excuse offered by a coolie who appropriated a six-foot beam of wood belonging to a carpenter. "I had just eaten my rice," he said, "and I wanted to pick my teeth." Examples of this nature could be furnished *ad nauseum*, but these two gems are sufficient to show that

For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain,
The he then Chinese is peculiar.

A glance before closing at the personalities holding sway at the Police Court. Mr. F. A. Hazeland, the Senior Magistrate, is a clever, painstaking official who places each case carefully in the balance and gives his decision according as the scales swing under the weight of evidence. A genial friend when freed from work enables him to exceed the narrow conversational limits set by the terse judicial query, "Guilty or not guilty?" he is the magistrate again when the Bench has him for occupant, and no case is too complicated, no details connected therewith are too minute or brain-racking, to ensure anything but the calmest deliberation and the justest ruling, be the defendant black, white, or yellow. Mr. J. H. Kemp is his junior in years as in office, but his daily task he discharges with the *sang froid* of a man of riper experience and characteristic his decisions at all times with a strict observance of the trend of facts. Not yet possessed of the invulnerability that comes of usage and long service, he is keenly, perhaps too keenly, sensitive to criticism and quick to retaliate. Thus the toiling pressman is at present saved the trouble of deciphering Mr. Kemp's handwriting in the depositions, an order that these depositions were not to be accessible having gone forth after the publication by another newspaper of a sentence of six months passed on a prisoner who, in reality received only six weeks, but whose case, viewed in the former light by the editor, was made the subject of sympathetic comment that reflected unfavourably and unjustly on the presiding magistrate. To err, we are told, is human, and mayhap the day is not far distant when Mr. Kemp will exercise the divine virtue of forgiveness and let bygones be bygones.

POLICE INSPECTOR DEVELOPS PLAGUE.

We learn that on the 16th inst. Inspector D. Macdonald, in charge at Yau-mati Police Station, was removed to the Kennedytown Hospital suffering from plague. Inspector Macdonald developed feverish symptoms on Saturday, and in the afternoon went for treatment to the Government Civil Hospital, where the case was diagnosed as one of bubonic plague; he was thereupon taken to the hospital at Kennedytown. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Macdonald and her two young children, and it is earnestly hoped that her husband, who is a strong, hearty man, will quickly recover and resume his place in the household and in the Police Force, of which he is a greatly respected member.

On the 17th we were informed that Inspector Macdonald had passed a quiet night, and was progressing favourably. The attack is believed to be a slight one. Sergeant MacSwyde is in charge at Yau-mati.

The death is announced from Wuhu of Captain Peter, a pilot. The *N. C. Daily News* says the death occurred under tragic circumstances.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

16th May.

The new Viceroy, Shun Chou Huin, left Szechuan on the 16th of this Chinese moon (12th May) for Canton, and is expected here about the 10th of next moon; but before he started he sent a number of spies here to find out what the officials have been doing, and report upon the state of affairs in Kwangtung and Kwangsi.

It is said in Canton that the gentry and merchants in Kwangtung and Kwangsi have petitioned and wired to the President of the Board of War, H. E. Wang, at Peking, asking His Excellency to cancel the act of the prefect of the Kwai Lum prefecture who applied to the French military authorities for assistance in suppressing the Kwangsi rebellion. They also ask that the prefect shall be dismissed from office. It is reported that the French soldiers have marched into the territory of Kwangsi to fight the rebels.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

On the 10th inst. a draper named Kung-Sun sent one of his foki to Loongshan to purchase silk. When the foki arrived at Sa Tan Pun village by boat, he was attacked by a notorious pirate named Choi Gham and a number of his followers. Seeing that the poor foki had only sixty taels in his possession, the leader of the pirates took him prisoner and sent a letter to the draper's shop asking one thousand five hundred taels for the prisoner's ransom. The master of the shop in question refused to accede to the outrageous demands of the pirates. The money not being forthcoming, the pirates shot the unfortunate prisoner and threw the corpse into the river. When the master found the corpse, he immediately reported the case to the local magistrate who promised to do his best to find out the culprits. It is usual when any case of robbery is brought to the notice of the local mandarins that the complainants have to disburse a good sum of money as bribes to the yamen runners, otherwise their case will never be brought to the knowledge of the mandarins. Hence, very few cases of robbery are reported.

THE KWANGSI FAMINE.

It is reported that a meeting was held a few days ago in a charitable institution, the Prefect of Kwang Chow being voted to the chair, to decide upon plans for raising a fund for the relief of sufferers by the famine in Kwangsi. It was decided to distribute subscription lists to all the gentry and the merchants asking for an initial fund of three hundred and fifty-six taels. The local gentry of Kwangsi were also asked to co-operate in assisting to distribute congee and rice to the starving people and to sell rice at a cheap rate in various districts. Recently a large quantity of rice has been sent from Canton to Wuchow, so that the price of rice is gradually declining at the latter place.

LICENSING JUNKS AND BOATS.

The Canton Government has sanctioned, in consideration of payment of a large annual sum, a proposal presented by an influential merchant to license all the junks and boats in Canton.

GENERAL SOU AT CANTON.

General Sou of Kwangsi has arrived at Canton from Wuchow. The General was reported to the Throne some days ago and censured by the Governor of Kwangsi for being unable to suppress the rebels and allowing the soldiers under his command to join hands with the rebels. An Imperial decree was recently issued ordering the General to go to Peking to answer the charges brought against him.

Commenting on the movement to secure the removal of the Admiralty Dock in Hongkong the *Times of India* remarks:—A curious fatality seems to dog the footsteps of the naval authorities whenever they attempt to carry out a scheme in the Far East. The fiasco which appears imminent at Hongkong will not be the first case of blundering in Chinese waters.

THE "STAR" FERRY CO., LD.

The fifth ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders of the "Star" Ferry Co., Ltd., was held at the Company's Office, Connaught Road, on the 20th inst. The Chairman, Mr. N. A. Siebs, presided, and there were present Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. A. J. Raymond, R. C. Wilcox, H. Humphreys, J. Hooper, J. J. Monteiro, E. M. Roberts, and R. J. Macgowan (Acting Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for several days, I propose, with your permission to take them as read. The gross earnings from traffic were \$20,723 better than last year, and the net earnings show an increase of \$14,791.32. From the balance at credit of profit and loss account your directors propose to pay a dividend of 12 per cent. which will absorb \$18,000. It must be borne in mind that the capital is now \$150,000 against \$125,000 last year, so that the dividend amounts to \$3,000 more. Following the policy pursued in previous years it is proposed to write down the value of the boats, goodwill, etc., and \$8,000 have been appropriated for this purpose. The book value of the five double-enders, of which your fleet now consists, will then be \$150,000, at which price it would not now be possible to replace them. The Board considered that it would be a wise policy to open an insurance account, crediting same yearly with 5 per cent. of the book value of the boats, and \$7,750 have accordingly been set aside for that purpose; I feel sure that this will meet with your approval. We have been fortunate in the past in avoiding losses through typhoons, etc., but immunity from such risks may not always continue and we should be prepared to make good any losses that might occur without having recourse to our reserve fund. It is a matter for congratulation that during the year under review our boats have met with no accidents, and we have had to pay no claims. It has been suggested to the directors that they should call up the balance of the capital, and thereby increase the reserve fund, but the amount so realised could not at present be profitably employed in the Company's business, and consequently the dividend of 12 per cent. (on \$200,000) could not be maintained. Your directors, after giving the suggestion their careful consideration, decided that it would be wiser to wait until, with the expansion of the Company's business, further capital can be profitably employed therein. If the shareholders have any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability.

Mr. HUMPHREYS said—Mr. Chairman, as you have referred to the suggestion made to call up the remaining capital, I think I may say that it might be worth while for the directors to consider the advisability of increasing the Company's business by running a ferry service between their present wharf and Yaumati. I have in my hands the refusal of a wharf in deep water, which the Company, if it takes it, can fence in and use for its own purpose just the same as at Kowloon. If the Company's business is not extended it seems to me that the present capital is too large and it might be reduced by paying off the new shares altogether.

The CHAIRMAN—We have tried a service to Yaumati before but it was not successful, but we will consider the question again.

Mr. WILCOX seconded the motion for the adoption of the report, and it was carried.

Mr. HUMPHREYS moved, Mr. HOOPER seconded, and it was carried, that Mr. A. J. Raymond be re-elected a director, and the reelection of Sir Paul Chater as a director be confirmed.

On the motion of Mr. WILCOX, seconded by Mr. HUMPHREYS, Mr. W. Potts was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants may be had on application at the office.

The report is as follows:—

The directors have the pleasure to submit to shareholders their report, with statement of accounts for the year ending 30th April, 1903.

ACCOUNTS.

The net earnings of the boats, after paying all working expenses, were \$12,973.50 as against \$22,182.18 last year, being an increase of \$14,791.32.

The amount at credit of profit and loss account, after paying for repairs and placing \$7,750 to credit of insurance fund, is \$42,337.06 which, with the approval of shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Directors' and auditor's fees	\$ 1,000.00
Dividend of 12 per cent.	18,000.00
Write off boats	5,000.00
" goodwill	1,000.00
" turnstiles	500.00
" Ice House Street pier	1,500.00
Transfer to reserve fund	15,000.00
Carry forward to new account	337.06
	<hr/> \$42,337.06

BOATS.—The old boats *Evening Star* and *Rising Star* have been sold. The five double-enders have been running satisfactorily throughout the year.

INSURANCE FUND.—The directors have deemed it expedient to open an insurance account, crediting same yearly with 5 per cent. of the book value of the boats.

DIRECTORS.—In accordance with the Articles of Association Mr. A. J. Raymond retires but offers himself for re-election. Mr. D. M. Moses resigned on leaving the Colony and his place has been taken by the Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., whose appointment requires confirmation.

AUDITOR.—Mr. W. H. Potts has audited the accounts now presented and offers himself for re-election.

N. A. SIEBS, Chairman.

Hongkong, 15th May, 1903.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

The following is the report of the general managers for presentation to the shareholders at the general meeting of the Company, on Thursday, the 28th inst.:—

Gentlemen.—We beg to lay before you a statement of the Company's business with a balance-sheet for the year ending the 31st December, 1902.

The net profits of the Company for the twelve months under review, after paying all charges, including the salary of the general managers, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts amount to ... \$101,951.95
To which has to be added the balance brought forward from the previous year ... 4,723.61

\$106,675.56

From this there has to be deducted:—

General managers' commission of 5 per cent. on the net profits for the year as per Article 80 of the Company's Articles of Association ... \$5,097.60
Remuneration of consulting committee as per Article 92 ... 2,500.00
... 7,597.60

Leaving an available balance of ... \$99,077.96

We paid an interim dividend of 5 per cent. in November last absorbing ... \$30,000.00
And we now propose to pay a further dividend of 6 per cent. (making 11 per cent. for the year) which will absorb ... 36,000.00
To write off furniture, fittings, utensils of trade, lighter, soda water plant, machinery and building additions ... 30,000.00
To carry forward to 1903 account ... 3,077.96
... \$99,077.96

The result of the year's working has been on the whole satisfactory, notwithstanding the low rates of exchange which prevailed during the latter half of the year and the keen competition we experienced in all branches of our trade.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The existing committee consists of Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. C. Ewins, J. H.

May 23, 1903.]

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

377

Lewis, W. Parfitt, and R. C. Wilcox. The appointment of Messrs. Parfitt and Wilcox requires your confirmation.

ACCTORS.

The Company's accounts at the head office have been audited by Mr. Francis Maitland, who offers himself for re-election. Mr. W. Hutton Potts will be invited to assist Mr. Maitland at the next audit.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 14th May, 1903.

THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, LD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders of the above Company at the second ordinary general meeting, to be held on Saturday, 30th May, is as follows:—

Annexed we beg to lay before shareholders the annual statement of accounts made up to the 28th February, 1903. The working account at Canton shows a loss of \$17,390.25 and after writing off \$4,302.55 as depreciation and including interest and other charges, and the balance of \$20,846.47 at debit of last year, there remains a balance of \$57,053.76 at debit of profit and loss account. The result is very disappointing as regards Canton but it has been absolutely unavoidable in the face of the continued series of break-downs of the machinery there, which, it is now evident, is quite unequal to the work it has to do. By the expenditure of much time and money, we have succeeded in getting the factory to run steadily latterly, but accidents to the machinery alone have cost us nearly \$5,000 and our coal consumption has been more than double that of a suitable modern engine would be. There is no doubt that with such an engine we should now be working at a good profit and it is quite clear to us that matters will never be on a satisfactory footing until the old engine has been replaced by one of the latest and most economical type, such as the one we have installed at Hunghom. The demand we are glad to say causes us no anxiety; in spite of all the adverse circumstances of last year, it has increased and is increasing and the prospects of doing a large and remunerative business at Canton are very good.

The works at Hunghom, Kowloon, were only started in February last, so that as our accounts are made up to the 28th of that month, we are without a working account there. We have however at present a great number of enquiries and new orders are coming in, and we have no doubt that in a short time we shall not only be running at our full strength but that it will not be long before it will be necessary to consider the question of adding more machinery to keep pace with our requirements there.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. H. P. White retired and Mr. J. H. Lewis was appointed in his place. The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., and Mr. J. H. Lewis now retire but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gordin who are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,
General Managers.

Japan will probably have the most efficient submarine flotilla of the future, writes Retired Commander F. M. Barber, U.S.A., in the *Forum* April June number. This little nation is in that curious transition stage where she can apply at once the newest ideas of our civilisation to the rugged and primitive conditions born of her feudal system.

Lieut.-Commander W. B. Dalgety, when in command of the river steamer *Teal* on the Yangtze, reported to the Admiralty on the navigation of that river, and Lieut.-Commander R. E. Chilcott, when commanding the *Woodlark* on the same river, sent in a report as to the navigability of tributaries of the Upper Yangtze from Chung King to Ho Chau on the Kialing Kiang, and from Ho Chau to Ngan Shu Shien on the Fu Kiang, with additional notes on the possibilities of navigating the upper waters of these tributaries. Copies of these reports have now been sent to the Board of Trade.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHINESE THEATRES AND PLAGUE INFECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 15th May.

SIR,—I was vastly amused this morning to find that I had drawn my friend "Common Sense" into making a *tu quoque* retort—always a sign of weakness. Perhaps I am a "Scallywag": if I am (and I don't feel sure that insinuations of "Common Sense" are necessarily correct) I glory in my shame and don't sail under false colours like "Common Sense."

I am sorry if I mistook "Common Sense's" argument but I think, if he will read his letter again he will see that it is open to the construction I put on it—viz., that, by his own contention the European being the only one likely to suffer, therefore if the Chinese theatres were closed it would be for the benefit of the European, and not the Chinese.

"Common Sense's" other arguments are, I submit (with all friendly respect to his views and feelings), too puerile for more than passing comment. As to India's example I could, if space permitted, give "Common Sense"—after seven years' experience of that country—a good deal of information of which, judging by his remarks, he appears to be in blissful ignorance.

If we invert the names Hongkong and Canton I think "Common Sense" will find himself hoist with his own petard. Is it not possible that owing to Canton being blessed with those advantages which "Common Sense" takes upon himself to condemn with a self-complacent assurance worthy of a better and a cleaner cause—is it not just possible that Canton and not Hongkong may be the plague-supporting spot?

If the Chinese consider it a hardship to be made to live a clean life amid sanitary surroundings have their prehistoric practices modified by modern civilisation, why do they flock in thousands into this Colony? Their very numbers being the initial "causation" of the trouble which our splendid British doggedness continues to fight—the ravages of the disease and the hysterical squealings of a few sickly sentimentalists notwithstanding.—Yours, etc.,

SCALLYWAG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 16th May.

SIR,—"Scallywag's" seven years' experience in India does not evidently warrant him to dispute my assertion that even when plague was at its worst the Government never attempted to close the native theatres. He could—and he would—give us a lot of information about that country if space permitted. Could he tell us why, with no "plague supporting spot" such as he leads us to believe we have in Canton, the Government of India with all their unlimited resources have failed to stamp out plague in Bombay and Calcutta?

"Scallywag" is mistaken if he thinks that the Chinese "flock here in thousands" out of love of the sanitary surroundings that meet their eye. I can assure him that a little enquiry will convince him that such is their respect for our efforts to improve the sanitation of the Colony that at the very first symptom of illness those of them who can manage it take the earliest boat to Canton, to recover there or die there in peace.

But the question after all is: ought we to close their theatres? I contend we have no reason to expect any benefit from that step. We adopted it in 1901 and plague continued to rage with unabated virulence. What is the good of trying it again?

"Scallywag" says that the measure having been approved and passed by a majority of the Sanitary Board, no one need worry more about it. Like the laws of the Medes and the Persians, a decision of the Sanitary Board is beyond recall—beyond revision. But I venture to hope that wiser counsels will prevail, and that the Government will realise that it is worse than foolish to deprive an unfortunate and unoffending class of their only means of enjoyment without better reasons than any that has hitherto been furnished us.

"British doggedness" is very fine, but let us combine with it a little intelligence and consideration.—Yours, etc.,

COMMON SENSE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 16th May.

SIR,—Will "Common Sense" answer the following questions:—

1. Is he financially interested in the keeping open of these theatres?
2. Do the better class of Chinese keep their children away from school during the plague season?
3. Did he require a B. & S. after digesting "Scallywag's" letters?
4. Would he inform us of the true reason why the Chinese make for Canton or elsewhere when they become sick?

—Yours, etc.,

JOEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 20th May.

SIR,—During my temporary absence from Hongkong I find "Joey," with that brevity which always denotes true wit, has laid "Common Sense" by the heels. I feel I ought to leave well alone, but the temptation to once more show "Common Sense" the error of his ways is too strong to resist.

May I point out that I did not say the suggestions of the Sanitary Board were unalterable; what I did say and which is the only sane interpretation to be put on my words was that the Sanitary Board having by a majority approved the closing of the theatres, it was a matter of absolutely no consequence what people, who shared "Common Sense's" views on the subject, thought.

"Common Sense" delivers him a "neck and brislet" into my hands by asking me to say why the Indian Government has not stamped out the plague in India? My only logical answer can be, and is, and I give it to "Common Sense" in strict confidence and with the greatest humility, "Principally because it failed to see the necessity of closing the native theatres!!"—Yours, etc.,

SCALLYWAG.

PLAGUE CONSIDERATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 16th May.

SIR,—I notice that Dr. Simpson in his report on plague is inclined to suspect as one of the causes of the continuance of the disease in the Colony the insufficient cooking of food by the lower-class Chinese.

It is desirable in my opinion, if it has not already been done, that a local expert should examine several articles that are consumed uncooked, with the view of ascertaining if they are infected. I refer more particularly to sugar cane, to which the natives of the class that suffers most are very partial.

It will be recollected that a very marked increase of plague took place some years ago at the time the Jockey Club held their annual Race-meeting, and which was attributed to the influx of Chinese from Canton. That they were indirectly instrumental in spreading the plague there can be little doubt, but it is just possible the large quantities of sugar cane supplied for their delectation might have been the primary cause, for it is a well-known fact that the consumption of the article is so great at that season that it takes several days to remove the refuse from the Happy Valley.—Yours, etc.,

BIZ.

MR. JUSTICE WISE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 16th May.

SIR,—*Appropos* of your article under the heading of "On the list" which appears in your issue of this morning, I think that it is the general opinion of the Bar and of the junior branch of the profession that the Colonial Government and the Colonial Office, including Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, the strongest Colonial Secretary England has ever seen, have overlooked and do overlook the merits of one of the best, if not the very best, judge that has sat on the Judicial Bench of this Colony. It is not for me to dilate on his merits. They are only too well known to the profession here and are also well appreciated by the merchants, be they

English or German, trading in Hongkong. Ask any one of them who they would like to try their skill, bristling with law and complicated facts. I take it upon myself to say their answer would be "Judge Wise." Everyone, except the Colonial Office, has the very highest opinion of this Judge's sound legal acumen, his surpassing ability to marshal facts, his sound common sense and judgment of character, and, above all, the dignity with which he presides over his Court and over the practitioners in it.

If this is the universal opinion of a strong man and a strong Judge, surely that strong man Mr. Joseph Chamberlain should recognise the fact and should do honour where honour is due.

I sign myself "Lex" and would ask you to keep my identity a secret, for Mr. Justice Wise is the last man who would wish his praises sounded in public and he might go out of his way to non-suit me with costs on the solicitor and client scale should he discover the author of this letter. Apologising for trespassing on your space.—Yours, etc.,

LEX.

JUNK LIGHTS AND HONGKONG LAW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 19th May.

SIR,—I desire to draw attention to the state of the law of this Colony with regard to the lights which should be carried by junks when under weigh.

Under the Ordinance at present regulating the matter (No. 28 of 1891, Section 27), every junk or other Chinese built vessel when under weigh at night *within the waters of the Colony* must exhibit a bright white light not less than 10 feet above the hull.

By Ordinance No. 39 of 1902, where, in any action brought in any Court in the Colony in respect of a collision occurring between sunset and sunrise, *outside the territorial waters of the Colony*, between a junk and a ship, it is proved to the Court that the junk has failed to comply with the International Collision Regulations concerning lights, the junk shall be deemed to be in fault.

By virtue of these Regulations the proper lights to be carried by sailing vessels are the red and green side lights and they are not allowed to carry the white light. The result therefore is that within the waters of the Colony a junk need only carry a white light, but outside the waters of the Colony the same junk must carry red and green side lights; that is to say, a trading junk leaving Hongkong for Shanghai or any northern port must carry a white light as long as she is in the waters of the Colony, but immediately she crosses the imaginary line forming the boundary of those waters, she must take down her white light and display red and green side lights.

One can scarcely conceive why, if a white light is all that is required in the crowded and narrow waters of this Colony, side lights should be necessary when the junk gets into the open sea. Of course we all know that in fact junks never do carry side lights, nor I venture to think, are ever likely to carry them, notwithstanding any Hongkong Ordinances.

Did the framers of this Ordinance expect that, immediately on the Ordinance being passed, the numberless junks on the China coast would at once discard the white light which they have carried from time immemorial, and blossom out into side lights of the most approved pattern?

This, I think, could hardly have been contemplated, and the only result of the Ordinance is that, if a junk belonging to a Chinese port be run down at night by a steamer say near Shanghai, and the junk owner comes to Hongkong, as they frequently do, to seek his remedy in damages against the steamer, the junk will be held to blame, because, forsooth, she has not complied with a law compelling her to carry lights which are not required by the laws or customs of her own country, nor even by the law of the Colony where she has come to seek her remedy.

If the Ordinance had prescribed that junks, when sailing in this Colony, should be held to blame if they had been proved not to have carried the white light required by the laws of this Colony, such a law would, in my opinion have been fair and reasonable, but

to enact that a junk should be in fault for not carrying side lights, well knowing that no junks ever do carry side lights, appears to be most unreasonable, and likely to lead to grave injustice whenever the Ordinance comes to be put into force.

I should add that, by Her late Majesty's Order in Council dated the 7th July, 1897, the Collision Regulations were applied to Chinese ships with this proviso, "Provided always that as regards Chinese ships such Regulations shall apply to ships of foreign type whether warships or not, but not otherwise."

Junks are therefore expressly excluded from the operation of the Regulations and, that being the case, I fail to see what power our local Legislature has to enact that the Regulations as to lights shall apply to them; for that is really the effect of Ordinance 39 of 1902.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN HASTING, F.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 20th May.

SIR,—Mr. J. Hastings has raised a very important question in his letter appearing in the *Daily Press* this morning, and a more detailed statement of the law and of the principles involved may be of interest to your readers.

Under the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 the Collision Regulations, among which are the regulations as to lights, only apply to the ships of foreign countries beyond the limits of British jurisdiction, when such foreign countries consent and an Order in Council is made directing the application of the regulations to such ships, subject to any qualifications or conditions contained in such Order.

From the Order in Council at present in force, quoted by Mr. Hastings, it appears that the Government of China only consented that the regulations should be applied to Chinese ships of foreign build, and the Order accordingly directs that "as regards Chinese ships" the regulations "shall apply only to ships of foreign type but not otherwise."

This Order in Council has the force of an Act of Parliament and regulates the rights of Chinese shipowners whenever those rights come in question in any part of the British Empire. Under this Order Chinese junk-owners have the right to use on their vessels any lights sanctioned by the general maritime law of nations, and by that law they are only bound to display a reasonably sufficient light to warn approaching vessels of their vicinity and are under no obligation to carry red and green side lights. The right of Chinese junks on the high seas and in Chinese territorial waters to conform in the matter of lights only to the general maritime law, thus recognised by the British Government and made portion of the law in all British possessions by the above-mentioned Order in Council, cannot be taken away by any local Ordinance, for the Hongkong legislature has certainly no power to impose any obligation on any foreign ship outside Hongkong waters. It therefore is and will remain lawful for Chinese junks outside British waters not to carry side lights, until the Chinese Government consents to an alteration in the law and the Order in Council at present in force is repealed or amended by a fresh Order in Council or by an Act of Parliament.

Now how does the "Junks (Collision) Ordinance 1902" (No. 39 of 1902) affect the rights of junks and their owners? It does not directly enact that all junks outside the waters of the Colony shall carry side lights, but it does enact that if they do not, they shall be held to blame for any collisions with ships at night, whenever they come or are brought before any court in this Colony, unless it can be shown in any particular case that it was necessary for the junk not to carry side lights. So that the Chinese owner of a junk is subjected to a penalty for doing that which is lawful according to the law of this Colony, and the penalty that is imposed on him is precisely the same as he would have incurred had an obligation to carry side lights been imposed on him by an authority competent to impose such an obligation.

This is not the place to enter into a technical argument as to the legality of this Ordinance or as to the probable construction that will be placed on it in a court of law, but it must be

obvious to everyone that it is an attempt to deprive Chinese junk-owners indirectly of rights that the local legislature cannot take from them directly.

If the Chinese Government attempts to nullify the legal rights of British subjects in China, protests loud and long are raised, and rightly too; for an honourable observance not merely of the letter but of the spirit of international obligations cannot be too strongly insisted on. It cannot, therefore, but be a matter for regret to all persons anxious to uphold British prestige in China, to see an attempt to nullify the rights of Chinese subjects thus made by the Government of a British Colony.—Yours, etc.,

MARCUS W. SLADE.

THE MEETING OF PROPERTY OWNERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 19th May.

SIR,—I regret that there appears to have been some misunderstanding concerning the object of the meeting held yesterday at the Sanitary Board offices. The object was simply to explain to the Chinese property owners the meaning of Sections 46 and 154 of Ordinance 1 of 1903, as from information received from the Chinese members of the Legislative Council and Chinese members of the Sanitary Board it appears that the Chinese did not thoroughly understand these Sections.—Yours etc.,

J. M. ATKINSON,
President, Sanitary Board.

PLAGUE AND DUMPING OF DEAD BODIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 20th May.

SIR,—As the plague is still prevalent in the Colony and the dumping of dead bodies continues, notwithstanding the heavy penalties imposed by the Magistrates, I trust the following facts which I will point out through the medium of your columns for the information of the Government and the Sanitary Board will cause some radical reform to be made in the way the work is at present carried out.

As soon as a death is reported a policeman is despatched to the house where it has occurred, and the inmates are not allowed to leave till the body has been examined by a doctor and the cause of death certified, which, as a rule, takes over twenty-four hours.

If the death is pronounced to be from plague the Sanitary Board officials take charge of the premises and the occupants of the whole house are turned out into the street with their furniture and all their clothing, winter and summer, which is emptied from the boxes and disinfected. After fumigation, the whole house is closed and nailed and the occupants are left to shift for themselves with their furniture as best they can. I may mention that during what is called the disinfecting operation, leather boxes, chests-of-drawers, mattresses, and other furniture are damaged to such an extent that they are unfit for further use.

It is very annoying for the occupants of the whole house to be kept indoors and guarded by the police for over twenty-four hours pending the result of a medical examination of the corpse removed from one of the flats, and to have all their winter clothing in boxes, which cannot possibly be of use, knocked about and disinfected.

A case of plague occurred early this month at No. 51, Elgin Street, first floor. As usual the whole house was closed and the winter clothing, which was in boxes, taken and disinfected, and the inmates were turned out. Some of them, who could not find any place to go to live, remained in the street with their furniture for nearly a week, in all kinds of weather, with the result that one of them, an old man, got ill through exposure and was taken to hospital, where he died.

There are several instances of people turned out from plague-infected houses in Hollywood Road and Cochrane Street living in the public street for several days. Can it surprise anyone that dead bodies are frequently dumped in the street? In former years only the flat where a case of plague occurred was disinfected, but if it is considered

necessary on sanitary grounds to disinfect the whole house, surely the Government should provide a place to house the inmates and their effects, until such time as the plague-infected house is cleansed, whitewashed, and declared habitable.

The Chinese are more afraid of the Sanitary Board than the plague itself, and if no change is made in the present system I am afraid the dumping of dead bodies will continue. I would suggest:—

(1) As soon as a death is reported, a medical man be sent to the house to examine the body and certify the cause of death, and not to keep the inmates of several floors in a state of suspense as is done at present. The body should be removed to the mortuary for examination only in such cases where the cause of death cannot be ascertained without a post-mortem.

(2) That only the clothing in use on the flat where the death takes place should be disinfected and that the flat be whitewashed and closed.

(3) That the occupants of the other floors should not be required to leave the house; their flats to be fumigated and whitewashed, but their personal effects to remain untouched.

(4) That the occupants of the closed flat who have nowhere to go to, be provided with a suitable place to move to for such time as the Board deems necessary.

If these suggestions are carried out, I am confident that the dumping of the dead bodies will decrease, for it seems rather unfair that a man should have to suffer the hardships and annoyance above mentioned because he happens to reside in a house in a flat of which a case of plague has occurred. Yours, etc.,

ANTI-DUMPING.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE COLONY.

In his report for the year 1902 the Acting Registrar-General says:—The births registered during the year were as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Chinese, ...	633	333	966
Non-Chinese, ...	123	111	234
	756	444	1,200

This is equal to a general birth-rate of 8.8 per 1,000 as compared with 3.6 in 1901, 3.3 in 1900, and 3.4 in 1899. The birth-rate among the non-Chinese community alone was 12.6 per 1,000 as compared with 11.9 per 1,000 in 1901. The nationalities of the non-Chinese parents were as follows:—British 98, Portuguese 70, Indian 27, German 16, Malay 16, French 3, Japanese 2, and Spanish and Norwegian 1 each. The preponderance of male births over female births is still very marked among the Chinese community, being in the proportion of 190 male births to every 100 female births. The proportion among the non-Chinese community was 111 to 100 as compared with 107 to 100 in the previous year.

The number of the Chinese births registered does not give an accurate record of the total number of births of Chinese that have occurred in the Colony, for many of the infants that die during the first month or so of life remain unregistered, although their deaths must be registered to obtain the necessary burial orders. It has been customary, therefore, to add to the registered births the numbers of infants of one month old and under that die in the various convents, or are found by the police in the streets or in the harbour. The number during 1902 was 239 males and 364 females, making a total of 603 and the addition of these figures to the registered Chinese birth gives a total of 1,569 as compared with 1,100 during the previous year. The corrected birth-rate is, therefore, 6.1 per 1,000, while among the Chinese alone the rate becomes 5.3 per 1,000. The total Chinese births as calculated in the above manner show a proportion of only 125 male births to every 100 female births, while the dead bodies of infants found in the streets or left at the doors of the convents show 66 males to every 100 females, the explanation being that the Chinese have very little regard for the value of the lives of female children.

The number of deaths in the British and foreign community was 35, as compared with 413 in 1901. Of these, 26 died from plague. The number of deaths among the Chinese was 6,431 as compared with 6,670 in 1901. Of these, 546 died from plague.

SHANGHAI AND THE NAVY LEAGUE.

The British community of Shanghai, the *N.C. Daily News* says, responded splendidly to the invitation extended to them to form locally a branch of the Navy League, and in the somewhat depressing Court-room of the British Consulate a most enthusiastic send-off was given to the new branch which starts with a membership of 120 members obtained in something under an hour. H.B.M.'s Acting Consul-General was in the chair and flanking him under the legs of a large-size Union Jack—the only decoration—were Mr. H. P. Wyatt (the delegate of the League), Mr. W. G. Bayne (Chairman of the Municipal Council), Mr. J. O. P. Bland, Mr. R. M. Campbell, Mr. R. W. Little, Mr. A. M. Marshall, and Mr. A. L. Wright, members of the Provisional Committee. The Court-room was filled, and the thoroughly representative nature of the audience is shown by the mention among those present of Archdeacon Moule, the Rev. H. C. Hodges, Capt. Boisragon, Mr. C. J. Dudgeon, Mr. C. S. Addis, the Rev. W. G. Walshe, and Mr. E. S. Little.

A few brief words of commendation came from Mr. Mansfield, who pointed out that Mr. Wyatt was making his tour of the world in the interests of the League at his own expense, and who said also that he had been himself a member of the League for some time.

Mr. Wyatt proved himself an orator of intense earnestness and a very real eloquence. He established very clearly the value of the League, and dwelt on the fact that it was essentially non-party and non-jingo. Its sole desire was to strengthen the hands of any and every Government in providing money for an efficient navy. How necessary that was in a democratically governed country had been proved by the events of 1878 and 1884 when serious crises had found the country in a grave state of unpreparedness. In glowing words Mr. Wyatt depicted the distress and starvation which must invade Great Britain and its colonies if the command of the seas were lost but temporarily, and he pointed out that no amount of money could bring a fleet into being at short notice; that in naval warfare, therefore, the verdict must be decided on the strength of the rivals at the commencement of hostilities. The indebtedness of Shanghai to the navy was specially insisted on and a great point was made in stating that valuable information now looked up in the knowledge of men residing in the East might be brought through the League to render vital assistance to the Government.

The speech was received with rounds of applause and a general eagerness was shown by those present to set down their names as members. The eloquence of the chief speaker proved infectious and Messrs. R. W. Little and J. O. P. Bland had an audience ready to take up with enthusiasm the points they made in formally proposing the establishment of a branch.

The Provisional Committee already named was elected a Substantive Committee, with power to add to their number.

GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP.

The final tie in the Golf Championship competition was played off at Happy Valley on the 15th inst. between Mr. C. E. H. Beavis and Mr. W. W. Clark. It was splendidly contested, Mr. Beavis winning at the second last hole of the 36 that were played. Many spectators, including H.E. the Governor, Sir Henry Blake, witnessed the game. Captain Nicholson, R.N., acted as umpire. At the end of the first 18 holes Mr. Beavis was two up with 82 against his opponent's 84. In the second half of the game he increased his lead to as many as four up, but Mr. Clark playing a very strong game through the green reduced the lead against him to one up at the third last hole. The second last was secured by Mr. Beavis, however, and he thus won by two up and one to play. The last hole was halved in five. Below are the detailed scores, the query-marks denoting an estimated

score in cases where the players did not hole out:—

MR. BEAVIS.	
First round ...	5 4 7 5 4 5 4 4 4—40
Second round ...	4 4 5 4 6 3 5 8—42
Third round ...	4 4 5 4 5 5 6 5 5—41
Fourth round ...	5 4 5 3 4 6 6 4 5—42
MR. CLARK.	
First round ...	4 5 4 4 5 6 4 5 6—43
Second round ...	3 5 4 4 5 6 6 5 5—39
Third round ...	6 4 4 5 5 6 4 5 7—44
Fourth round ...	5 4 4 4 3 6 4 4 5—39

MISCELLANEOUS.

H.M.S.S. *Glory* and *Alacrity* have been up the Yangtze as far as Kiukiang. The Admiral entertained several residents on the *Glory*.

The Rangoon Port Commissioners have appointed Mr. Holmes, Chief Engineer of the Singapore Docks, to be Resident Engineer of the Rangoon Port Trust.

Mr. E. A. Morphy, Editor of the *Straits Times*, was married last week to Miss Annie Ruth Lloyd, the eldest daughter of Mr. J. T. Lloyd, an old and much respected resident of Singapore.

When last reported H.M.S. *Albion* was at Japan, the *Moorhen* on the West River, and the *Phoenix* and *Thetis* were en route to Sandakan and Shanghai respectively. The *Waterwitch* went out to Mirs Bay on the 19th inst.

The German Governor of Samoa has issued a proclamation forbidding under a heavy penalty Chinese to be landed. In future Chinamen will not be allowed to hold land, and any contracts with them will be void.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy yesterday, an enquiry was opened into the circumstances attending the death of the woman who committed suicide recently in a cell at the Central Station. Medical and police evidence was taken, and an adjournment was made until to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Damage to the extent of about \$200 was done by a fire which broke out in Queen's Road West on the 19th, morning, at three o'clock, in the unoccupied first floor of a house situated on the opposite side of the street from the tailor's shop in which a case of arson, having its equal in the Supreme Court on Monday, occurred some little time ago.

The *Japan Mail* confidently affirms the belief, as the result of thirty-six years' observation, that the treatment of children in Japan is kinder, so far as mere kindness goes, than the treatment of children in any other country with which the Editor is acquainted, and further that quarrelling and want of mutual forbearance are remarkably absent from young life in Japan.

The *Kobe Chronicle* declares that the spread of Christianity in Japan in the sixteenth century was in large part due to the desire of the Japanese for foreign commerce; in the nineteenth century the animating motive was principally a desire for Western knowledge. In both, the economic factor, as in the spread of Christianity in other parts of the world, was an important aid to proselytisation.

The *Japan Times* (an English paper edited by Japanese) says it is satisfactory to notice the salutary effect which the external dangers threatening China are producing on the development of nationalistic sentiment and patriotism among the Chinese people; a development which is one of the most encouraging signs in the contemporary history of our unfortunate neighbours. The growth of such nationalistic sentiment is especially remarkable among the Chinese of the younger generation.

Judgment has been given in the Admiralty suit tried before Acting Chief Justice Bourne and Commander Pratt, R.N., at Tientsin, in which the Russian Government, owners of the *Bobrik*, a steam-cutter attached to H.I.R.M. cruiser *Sivooch*, claimed damages from the Taku Tug and Lighter Co., the owners of the steam-launch *Gem*, in respect of a collision between these two vessels which occurred in the Pei Ho, between Tongku and Taku on the 8th March, 1902, and by which the *Bobrik* was sunk. Both vessels are to blame. There will be a reference to the Registrar to assess the damages, one half of the amount of which will be paid by the defendants to the plaintiffs. The parties will bear their own costs.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 7th May.—Exports.—Reels.—Dealers still refuse to engage in New Silk beyond the contracts booked in March (some 250 Bales), and further offers are unobtainable. Filature.—Reports of damage to the European Crop are definitely confirmed and have caused active competition for the balance of current season's stock. This, amounting to some 2,000 Bales in both reels, has been rapidly cleared off at widely divergent prices, entirely closing up the Old season. The demand has extended to New season's produce and considerable forward contracts have been placed, details of which are however difficult to determine. A very keen enquiry has ruled in 9/11, which size however is practically unobtainable in 1st Crop. The few parcels offering in this size have been readily taken up at \$1,000/1,010 for Best 2nd Class chops. Sun Yue, Lun Chee Chung Wo 11/13 have been contracted for at \$960. Hau King Sing 13/15 at \$950 and Good 2nd Class 18/22 at \$320 up to \$350 all 1st Crop. Subjoined quotations are for New Silk:—Further contracts in Best 36 Ounce are very difficult to procure, dealers reporting 11/13 as almost unobtainable out of 1st Crop. 13/15 and 14/18 are offered at \$840 and \$820 respectively. Short-reels.—Advices from New York on the other hand report a dull and lifeless market. The balance of Old season's stock, about 350 Bales, has been cleared off at \$850 for Good 2nd Class 14/16, said to be for Europe. Sai Shie Lun 14/16 has been contracted for in 1st Crop at \$90. Waste Silk.—Prices of Steam are as last quoted and very firm. There is very little of Old season's produce now left in view, and the stock has been further reduced by purchases for native consumption. Contracts in New season's Waste for delivery up to September have been placed on the reported basis of \$136/137 for Ext. Sel. opened. Punjom Books are offering at \$185 for No. 3.

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 22nd May.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 22nd May.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.35 to \$8.40 per cwt.
Do. " 2, White..... 7.60 to 7.65 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 6.00 to 6.03 "
Do. " 2, Brown... 5.80 to 5.85 "
Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.20 to 8.25 "
Do. " 1, White..... 7.50 to 7.55 "
Do. " 1, Brown... 5.90 to 5.95 "
Do. " 2, Brown... 5.75 to 5.80 "
Fochow Sugar Candy.....12.15 to 12.20 "
Shekloong ".....10.55 to 10.60 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 22nd May.—The downward tendency continues, market being dull.
Saigon, Ordinary.....\$3.00 to 3.05
" Round, Good quality..... 4.75 to 4.80
" Long..... 5.05 to 5.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2..... 4.10 to 4.15
" Garden, " No. 1..... 4.25 to 4.30
" White,..... 5.15 to 5.20
" Fine Cargo..... 5.30 to 5.35

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer Jason sailed on 12th May. For London:—Tea 268 half-chests at Canton, particulars unknown. 132 cases chinaware, 29 cases bamboo ware, 18 cases rattan ware, 19 cases cigars, 19 cases curios, 2,073 bales lamp, 100 bales feathers, 153 bales waste silk, 322 rolls mats, 39 packages sundries. For London, option Glasgow:—100 cases ginger.

Per steamer Bayern sailed on 13th May. For Aden:—2 cases blackwood ware. For Naples:—25 bales rattan shaving, 2 cases bamboo fans, 1 case silk. For Genoa:—326 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk. For Antwerp:—480 bags antimony, 256 bales bamboo scraps, 213 rolls matting, 8 bales feathers, 1 case copperware, 1 case glass sticks. For Antwerp and Hamburg:—110 cases bristles. For Antwerp, Hamburg and London:—10 cases bristles. For Amsterdam:—133 rolls matting. For Bremen:—25 rolls matting, 5 cases sundries, 4 cases paper, 1 case cigars, 1 case curios. For Hamburg:—244 bales feathers, 150 bales Chinapoot, 135 bales rattan core, 70 rolls mats, 20 bales cases, 20 boxes China paper, 10 cases vermilion, 8 cases lacquer ware, 7 cases cassia, 6 cases curios, 5 cases rice paper, 4 cases human hair, 1 case blackwood ware. For Bergen:—2 boxes clothes. For London:—567 rolls matting.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 22nd May.—Nothing doing, market very quiet. Stock, about 5,000 bales.
Bombay.....22.00 to 23.00 picul
Bengal (New), Raw good } 23.00 to 24.00 "
and Dacca..... }
Shanghai and Japanese, 20.0 to 27.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo, 20.00 to 27.00 "

Sale:—

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong 22nd May:—Towards the close of last mail, the heavy drop of \$5 to \$6 per bale had the effect of inducing a brisk and strong speculative enquiry which, despite a weak and declining exchange, was too freely met by large holders, and settlements to the extent of over 14,000 bales, both spot and to arrive, were effected during the first part of the interval at prices showing an appreciation of \$1 to \$2 per bale on last quotations. As usual, demand has run chiefly on No. 10s, which comprise more than half of the settlements and show the largest improvement. The Bombay markets are reported very active with firmer prices, but importers have been guided solely by local conditions and having in view the present steadiness in exchange are still keen sellers. Dealers, however, having satisfied their requirements are by no means inclined to follow sellers in their advance, and business at the close has been small. Receipts during the interval are moderate and include about 4,000 bales contract goods. The market again closes quiet.

Local Manufacture:—No business is reported. Japanese Yarns:—Are firmer all round owing to increased enquiry. Sales of the fortnight comprise about 1,300 bales No. 20 at from \$127 to \$132, all forward delivery.

Raw Cotton:—The market continues in the same dull lethargic state as last advised. There have been no orders from the country for Indian descriptions, the local mill is not buying, and exporters with a view to ease stocks have been shipping off about 1,500 bales to Kobe. Unsold stock is estimated at 4,500 bales chiefly Bengal kinds. There is again nothing doing in China kinds. Stock 500 bales (small). We quote Bengal \$20 to \$23, and China \$25 to \$27.

Exchange on India touched as low as Rs. 125½ in the middle of the fortnight but has again rallied and closes to-day at Rs. 126½ for T/T and Rs. 127 for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and 83½ on Yokohama.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 11th instant, viz:—

Indian:—A fairly large number of bales have changed hand, but the vagaries of exchange have upset the market and business greatly checked. Sales of the interval amount to 8,213 bales comprising 4,621 bales No. 10s, 604 bales No. 12s, 616 bales No. 16s, and 2,076 bales No. 20s, prices continuing unchanged and market closing steady. Estimated unsold stock about 8,000 bales.

Japanese:—There has been more doing in these spinnings, some 5,000 bales changing hands on the basis of Tls. 86 to 95 for No. 16s, and Tls. 97 to 102½ for No. 20s, prices showing little or no change and market closing firm.

Local:—Beyond a single sale of 250 bales No. 14s. at Tls. 88½, there is no business to report although the market remains steady.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG 23rd May.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ... \$ 90.00 to \$123.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... 114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ... 120.00 to 126.00
" 28 to 32, ... 136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ... 155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs. 2.10 to 2.20
8.4 lbs. 3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs. 4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 58 rd. 2.9 to 3.25
58 to 60 " 3.50 to 4.10
64 to 66 " 4.25 to 5.75
Fine 6.00 to 8.50
Book-folds 5.00 to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.85 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y 2.30 to 2.80
7 lbs. (32 ") " 2.50 to 3.00
6 lbs. (32 ") , Mexs. 2.50 to 3.00
7 lbs. (32 ") , " 3.10 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 3.30 to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs.) 4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—14 to 15 to 5.50
8 lbs. 15 to 5.50
Brocades—Dyed to —
DAMASKS — per yard
Chintzes—Assorted to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in 0.29 to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in. 0.20 to 0.29
per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.3 to 5.00

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP: Pelous, Malacca, Alcinoos, Antenor, Benmohr, Kanagawa Maru.
FOR LONDON:—Kanagawa Maru, Bengal, Benmohr, Malacca, Patroclus, Pelous, Calchas, Alcinoos, Antenor.
FOR LIVERPOOL:—Oopack, Hyson.
FOR MARSEILLE:—Alcinoos, Pelous, Antenor, Salasie, Kanagawa Maru.
FOR BREMEN:—Hiden.
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG:—Segovia, Strassburg, Wurrurg, Suetia, Nurnberg, Badenia.
FOR GENOA:—Hyson, Benmohr.
FOR TRIESTE:—Melpomene.
FOR NEW YORK:—Charles Tiberghien, Pembroke-shire, Nubia, Heathford, Hudson.
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.:—Victoria, Telemachus, Akti Maru.
FOR VANCOUVER:—Empress of China, Athenian

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 22nd May, 1903.—Business generally continues dull, and our market closes for the week without any feature of special interest to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have again changed hands in small lots at \$670. London is unaltered at 263. Nationals are enquired for at \$26.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have declined to \$5 5 sellers. China Traders have been booked at \$60 and continue in request. North Chinas have improved in the North to Tls. 210 buyers. Yangtzes can be placed in small lots at \$130, and Cantons at the improved rate of \$172½ after sales at \$170.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkong have advanced to \$315 with buyers. Chinas have been taken off the market at \$84 and further small lots are wanted at this rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have again been done at \$37½ at which our market closes steady. Indo-Chinas were dealt in extensively in the early part of the week at prices ranging between \$104 and \$118 cash, and equivalent rates forward up to August, the market then easing off to \$106 at which we close with some sales and probable buyers. China and Manilas are weak at \$26. Douglasses can be placed at \$40, and Star Ferries (old) at \$25½, and (new) at \$15½, both the latter ex the dividend of 12 per cent. for the year ended 30th April, 1903, paid on the 21st instant. Shell Transports are neglected at the former quotation of £1. 6s. 1d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue to decline, and shares are procurable at \$106 at which the last sales are reported. Luzons are unchanged with sellers at \$12.

MIXING.—Punjoms are on offer at \$3. Jelabus are quiet at \$1½. Raubs have declined to \$8½ sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been booked at \$214 and \$213, and close with probable buyers at the latter rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have declined to \$89 sellers. New Amoy Docks continue in request at \$40. Farnhams are unchanged at Tls. 187½ sellers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold at \$170 and close with sellers at this figure. Kowloon Lands continue on offer at \$40. West Points have improved to \$52 at which there are buyers. Hongkong Hotels have been disposed of at \$150, but have since eased off to \$148 at which there are probable buyers. Oriente Hotels are somewhat firmer with buyers at \$39. Humphreys Estates can be placed to some extent at \$12½ after sales at this rate and \$12½.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have declined to Tls. 88 sellers, other northern stocks remaining unchanged at last quotations. Hongkong Cottons continue in request at \$16.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have been booked at \$23½ and can still be placed

at this figure. Ropes have improved to \$125 buyers, and Steam Waterboats to \$134 buyers ex the interim dividend of 6 per cent. paid on the 16th instant. Dairy Farms can be placed at \$114, and Bells Asbestos at the improved rate of \$4. Powells have been booked at \$10, and China Providents at \$9.90.

MEMOS.—A. S. Watson & Co. Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 28th instant. China Light and Power Co. Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 30th instant. Transfer books will be closed from the 28th to the 30th instant, both days inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	\$670, sales
Natl. Bank of China		L'don, £63.
A. Shares	28	\$28, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$28, buyers
Foun. Shares...	21	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	21	\$33, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$11, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$2.
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$2.85, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$108.
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.	\$500	\$350, sellers
Philippine Tobacco Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$18.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 39, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 39, sellers
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160.
Hongkong	\$100	\$16, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$11, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$28	\$50, sellers
Green Island Cement.	\$10	\$23, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$5	\$131, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$320.
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$13, ex div., buy.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$148, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$24, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$89, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$122, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$213, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$172, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$84, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$60, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$815, buyers
North China	\$25	Tls. 210, buy
Straits	\$20	\$1, nominal
Union	\$100	\$525, sellers
Yangtze	\$30	\$130, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$170, sel. & sales
Humphreys Estate.	\$10	\$121, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$52, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$12, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$14.
Punjom	\$101	\$3, sellers
Do. Preference ...	\$1	35 cents, sellers
Raub	18	\$91, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$63	\$40, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$3, buyers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$10, sales & sellers
Robinson Co. Piano, Ltd.	\$50	\$50.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$26, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$25	nominal
H. Canton and M. ...	\$50	\$40, buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$15	\$374, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$10	\$108, buyers
Star Ferry	21	\$1.6s. Od.
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$10	\$25, buy. ex d.
United Asbestos	\$5	\$15, buy. ex d.
Do	\$5	nominal.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$155.
Watkins Ltd.	\$5	\$23, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$74, sellers
	\$10	\$15, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI.—Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their latest report to hand, dated May 14th, state:—Business opened this week with a very dull market for practically all stocks, and we have to record a shrinkage in nearly all stocks dealt in, with the exception of S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. The latter stock has remained very steady. **BANKS.**—Nationals are wanted at \$36. **MAINS INSURANCE.**—Unions are offering at \$590. **CHINA TRADERS** wanted at \$87. **North China** in demand at Tls 210, and **Canton** at \$60. **SHIPPING.**—Indo China.—Rather a limited business has been done in this stock during the week. The market opened on the 8th with sales at Tls. 77 for cash and on the 9th at 77 for cash and for May and June, with 77 for July. On the 11th July shares were sold at 77; on the 12th cash shares changed hands at 75 and on the 13th June shares were placed at 73 and 74 and July at 73/74/75. The market closes with buyers for cash at 73. **Shell T. & T. Co.** A transaction is reported at \$1.7s. 6d. **Sellers** at \$41. **Tug & Cargo Boat Shares.** No business reported; buyers of Cargo Boat Shares at quotations. **DOCKS AND WHARVES.**—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co.: Business was done on the 8th at Tls. 186/186.25 cash, 186; Settlement, 192; July. On the 9th at 187; May, 190 June, 182; July. On the 11th 186/7 cash, 187; Settlement, 190 June. On the 12th 187; Settlement, and 192; June. On the 13th at 187; and 186 cash and settlement, and 190 for June. The market is steady with buyers at 186 for cash. **Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves.** A transaction is reported at 297. **SUGARS.**—No business is reported. **Luzons** continue on offer at \$12. **MINING.**—No business is reported with the exception of a transaction in **Weiwei Golds** at \$20 for \$20 paid up shares. **LANDS.**—A transaction is reported in **Shanghai Lands** at Tls. 111: there are sellers at this rate. **INDUSTRIAL.**—No business reported in **Cotton Stocks.** **Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats.** We have to report a depreciation in this stock which is due entirely to the dearth of money, as news from the Estate is of the very best. On the 8th cash shares were done at Tls 315/320, and \$20 for the settlement, 325 June and 340 September. On the 9th at 315 for cash, 325 June and 335 July. On the 11th at 320/315 cash, 312; May, 335 July, 340 August. On the 12th at 300 cash and settlement and 374 June, 315/310 July, and 320 September. On the 13th at 300/305 cash and settlement and 305/307; 310/302; June, and 315/317; 320 July, and 322; August; 322/325/327; 330 September. **Sumatras:** a transaction is reported at Tls. 58. **STORES & HOTELS.**—Weeks have been dealt in at \$24 and **Llewellyns** at \$43. **Astor House Hotels** are enquired for at \$29. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—The only business reported is in **Telephones** at Tls. 63. **LOANS.**—No business reported. **Sellers** at quotations.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 22nd May.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8 3/4
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/8 1/2
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	214
Credits 4 months' sight	218
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	174
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	41 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	42 1/2
ON BOMBAY. —Telegraphic Transfer	126 1/2
Bank, on demand	127
ON CALCUTTA. —Telegraphic Transfer	126 1/2
Bank, on demand	127
ON SHANGHAI. —Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	71 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	83 1/2
ON MANILA.	
On demand	par
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.	
On demand	103
ON HAIPHONG.	
On demand	2 1/2 p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON. —On demand	2 p.c.p.m.
ON HONGKONG. —On demand	62
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.60
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	61.30
SILVER, per oz.	25 1/2

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 22nd May.—Freights coastwise show no improvement. From Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul last; to one port Philippines, 26 cents per picul last. From Iloilo to Japan, several steamers have been closed at 25 and 30 according to size. From north coast Java to Japan, 35 and 40 cents per picul. Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents nominal. Wuhu to Canton, no fixtures have been effected during the last few days and rate is reported to be about 19 cents per picul. Coal freights are weak. From Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 offering; to Singapore, \$2 per ton nominal. Monthly charter—The Australian steamer Triglav has been closed for 3 months option three for local account, and the German steamer Awige for a short period at \$5,500 per month for Shanghai account. The following are the settlements:—

Benarty.—British steamer, 3,499 tons, three ports north coast Java to one and two ports Japan, 35 cents per picul.

A China N. Co.'s steamer, three ports north coast Java to one port Japan, 37 1/2 cents per picul.

An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, three ports north coast Java to one port Japan, 40 cents per picul.

Accot.—British steamer, 2,786 tons, Mororan to west coast of North America, private terms.

Coringby.—British steamer, 2,158 tons, Moji and/or Kuchinotsu to Singapore, \$2 per ton.

Heathdene.—British steamer, 2,277 tons, Moji and/or Kuchinotsu to Hongkong, 3,000 tons, \$1.85 full cargo, \$1.80 per ton.

Saveta.—German steamer, 1,622 tons, Mororan and/or Otari to Hongkong, \$2.60 per ton.

Bjorn.—Norwegian steamer, 722 tons, two trips Vladivostok to Port Arthur (timber), \$3.75 per ton 40 cubic feet.

Duke of Life.—British steamer, 2,416 tons, Iloilo to Kobe or Yokohama (25,000 piculs), 28 cents per picul.

Anwa.—Norwegian steamer, 773 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama or Kobe, 26 cents per picul (28,000).

Loyal.—German steamer, 1,184 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama, 25 cents per picul (34,000).

Elg.—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama, 30 cents per picul.

Frithjof.—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Wuhu and/or Chinkiang to Canton, \$3,500 in full.

Cassius.—German steamer, 1,327 tons, Wuhu and/or Chinkiang to Canton, \$12,000 in full.

Chihli.—British steamer, 1,143 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.

Deuteros.—German steamer, 1,001 tons, two trips, Saigon to one port Philippines, 30 cents per picul.

Elg.—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 29 cents per picul.

Prosper.—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 26 cents per picul.

Telemachus.—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Emma Luyken.—German steamer, 1,109 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Andree Rickmers.—German steamer, 1,020 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 1/2 cents per picul.

Arnold Luyken.—German steamer, 1,095 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Victoria.—Swedish steamer, 989 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 1/2 cents per picul.

Seirstad.—Norwegian steamer, 617 tons, Hongay to Canton, \$2.20 per ton.

Progress.—Russian steamer, 512 tons, Touron to Hongkong and Canton, \$2,750 in full.

Triglav.—Austrian steamer, 618 tons, monthly, 3/8 months, at \$4,250 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

May—	
ARRIVALS	
14, Alcione, British str., from Liverpool.	
15, Agamemnon, British str., from Shanghai.	
15, Aragonia, German str., from Hamburg.	
15, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.	
15, Hanol, French str., from Quinhon.	
15, Indrapura, British str., from Portland.	
15, Maelaw, German str., from Bangkok.	
15, Moravia, Austrian str., from Trieste.	
15, Shawmut, American str., from Seattle.	
15, Ulabrand, Norwegian str., from Moji.	
16, China, Austrian str., from Kobe.	
16, Clara Jeeben, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.	
16, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.	
16, Kwongang, British str., from Shanghai.	
16, Nankin, British str., from Bombay.	
16, Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.	
16, Radnorshire, British str., from London.	
16, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.	
16, Simongan, Dutch str., from Chefoo.	

- Miss Herby, Messrs. G. Calceol, E. G. W. Batty, B. Smith, W. Davis, George Buchanan, A. W. F. Maccaush, L. Sward, J. Finkella, P. Galey, Messrs. Ernest August, De Lott, Regatta, Volk, Mrs. Demasch, Ally, Metz, for Glasgow, Japan, Ufford, James, H. Jones, from Nagasaki and Shanghai, Col. J. J. Hrelitzsky, from Manila and Shanghai, Mr. C. Bickus.
- Per Kumeho Maru, from Australia, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. N. Rongy, Miss Rongy, Dr. and Miss Haldane, Miss M. Abern, Messrs. D. Callenach, J. Hendry, S. Johnson, S. Nakashima and S. Sequella, for Nagasaki, W. & M. Takahashi, for Yokohama, Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Cross, Miss G. M. Cross, Mrs. Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Cole, Misses Cole and Ivy Cole, Mr. and Mrs. E. Rotinson, Master Robinson, Mrs. Hansfield, Mr. and Mrs. Leahy, Mr. and Mrs. W. Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cadell, Miss Cadell, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Patience, Mrs. Schuster, Mr. and Mrs. Beardsley and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Craig, Misses Thompson, Maccaush, F. Maccaush, M. White, Jardine and Kobb, Messrs. J. Boyd, E. M. Lynch, B. J. Larking, G. H. Gordon, L. A. McKay, W. Shakespere, D. L. Marshall, E. L. Baillinop, W. Mowbray, T. J. Thompson, T. P. Palmer, T. Sugimura, F. G. E. Walker, O. Yoshimura and M. Gadsdon.

Per *Athenian*, from Vancouver, Jc., Mr. and Mrs. Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Bummer, Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. De Rock, Miss F. Read, Messrs. Roberts, Walford, Simmonds, Bliss, Andrews, O'Reilly, Walter, Taylor, Loughran, Mann and Merton.

Per Stuttgart for Hong Kong, from Bremen, &c., Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Ashmore, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. A. van Arcken, Eisinger, Miss v. Arcken, Mr. and Mrs. von Bulow and children, Mr. and Mrs. Marin baumeister Breymann, Mrs. Freund-wiler, Mr. and Mrs. Ewald Gotze, Mrs. J. Hands and child, Miss K. Hands, Col. and Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lamotte, Miss Daisy Lamotte, Mr. Lewis Lamotte, Dr. and Mrs. H. Noltenius, Mr. and Mrs. Paldon, Mr. Evelyn Paldon, Mr. and Mrs. Friedrich Richter and child, Mr. Ross and child, Miss Margaret P. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Ad. C. Schomburg, Mr. and Mrs. Theodor Sobst, Miss Ellen Sobst, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sloan, Mrs. Adele Schwenke, Mr. and Mrs. O. Smits, Mrs. Kammerath Bertha Wolf, Miss Gertrud and Mr. Reforddar Wolf, Misses Howoth, Balbina Kaltenbach, Mary Daly, Annie S. Tilbury, L. Wichers and Marie Zie-mann, Lieut. Forstmann, Drs. Hallier and Mischke, Lieut. Nai Tenn, Sub-Lieut. Oldel op, S. Heheist Prinz Paribatra, Sub-Lieut. Stuben-rauch, Lieut. Wittmann, Miss E. Bertin Bik, Messrs. H. M. Bosch, Edward Caldwell, P. L. H. Coopers, H. Pose, Henry Diercks, Klaus v. Drahten, Emil H. Erlanger, Carl Gmur, Glau-bitz, Evelyn Haseltine, Richard Heinze, Hun-zinger, Eduard Irtenbusch, J. D. Kolus and family, Messrs. Hermann Kunzer, F. Kelly, Levy, Meader, G. Mahlestedt, F. Massard, Robt. Mayer, C. Moser, Edw. Nolfingk, Bertha Ohly, Pichinot, G. de Royt, Carl Streckhardt, A. Straesle, Reginald Smith, K.C., Laurits B. Skougard, Otto Schlesinger, Heinrich Wortel and Emil Werner.

Per Hongkong Maru, from San Francisco,
 do., Mrs. F. D. Johnson, Mrs. M. A. Kern,
 Mrs. O. P. Robinson; Mrs. Terry, Mrs. Pitcher,
 Mrs. Ladd and two children; Mr. and Mrs.
 Paul Clements, Misses Fayoll, Dodge, Grayum,
 Brustruen, S. Annis, K. Bolton and B. E. Camp-
 bell, Messrs. J. R. Alford, J. M. Browne, J.
 E. Connery, W. J. Carr, A. B. Decker, G. D.
 Fairbank, R. F. Lloyd, W. R. Moulton, C. A.
 Newbaker, L. D. Shuman, O. M. Shuman, H.
 B. Sullivan, W. E. Terry, A. L. Pitcher, G.
 Greenback, E. L. Lincoln, U. De byshire, H. S.
 Gray, J. H. Babbitt, C. A. Howland, H. Bass
 and K. Fuku.

DEPARTED.
Per *Stallhart*, for Shanghai, Mrs. and Miss Buchanan, Messrs. A. Fuchs, P. Barthillon, J. du Dognon, G. Roth and C. B. Remedios; for Yokohama, Mrs. Dickson, Miss Howkaley, Mr. E. Abt and Capt. Rowin.

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ARRIVED

Per Oceanien, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. Richard Abel; from Singapore, Mr. S. C. Alva; from Saigon, Messrs. Campbelle, Davidson, Solles, Hawery and Gausees; for Shanghai, from Marseilles Mr. and Mrs. Chanfoud, Peres Roïn and Cappelace, Messrs. Geo. Rheims, Gaetano Taramella, Vanoni, Jesequel, Roland, Dupont and Richter; from Saigon, Messrs. Dominico, Antonio, Biffasoi, Martin and Crapeli; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Messrs. S. S. Bernard, Lamaitre and Jolivet; from Singapore Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Fujimoto; from Patavia, Mr. A. Luitre and child; for Yokohama, from Bombay, Mr. J. A. Tayler; from Singapore, Mrs. Imajume, and Mr. H. P. Herosom; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Da Silva.

Per Caledonien, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mrs. W. E. Pasmore and Mr. W. W. Paddock; from Kobe, Mrs. Max; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Lanwin, Misses A. M. Magson, Carmen and Jennet, Messrs. Thurston, B. Bishop, R. H. Newborn, C. Henrich, W. Elger, G. Banker, Nicolson, Hugo Lim, V. Legaspi, G. Michael, Konjaer, Saviki, Vincent Castagnati and Chera; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mr. Saba'is; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. H. A. Schallig; from Shanghai, Messrs. W. C. May, W. Maxon, J. Kotsuji, E. Gublay and Miss Y. Nishioka; for Bombay, from Shanghai, Mrs. Landau and infant; for Port Said, from Shanghai, Mrs. Saffar, Messrs. P. and E. Saffar; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, Messrs. Courant and Honne haux; from Kobe, Mr. Ch. Morize; from Shanghai, Dr. Swallow, Capt. Muller, Rev. P. A. Dangy.

May. DEPARTURES.

15 Alcinous, British str., for Liverpool.
15 Anping, Chinese str., for Canton.
15 Bogator, Russian cruiser, for Kobe.
15 Boiky, Russian torpedo boat, for Kobe.
15 Bourky, Russian torpe o-boat, for Kobe.
15 Changhai, British str., for Kobe.
15 Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
15 Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
15 Kowloon, German str., for Chinkiang.
15 Rosella Mari, Japanese str., for Manila.
15 Saxonia, German str., for Hamburg.
15 Wingsang, Br tug, str., for Shanghai.
15 Yushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
16 Agamemnon, British str., for Singapore.
16 Chiffonford, British boe., F. R. Royal Roads
16 Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
16 Karin, Swedish str., for Chefoo.
16 Lian, British batt. ship, for Mira Bay.
16 Occident, French str., for Shanghai.
16 Shantung, German str., for Swatow.
16 Takang, British str., for Shanghai.
16 Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
16 W. Kats, Ma n. Jap str., for Singapore.
16 Zafro, Br h str., for Manila.
17 Edda, Ausack, Ger str., for Chinkiang.
17 Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
17 Koon-wai, Ger str., for Swatow.
17 Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
17 Maudslayi, Ma n. Jap str., for Swatow.
17 N. H. Br. str., for Shanghai.
18 Kistine, British boe., for Mira Bay.